

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 26 May 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE15/099) - SVP Process - Programme 2.3: Visas

Senator Carr, Kim (L&CA 85) asked:

Senator KIM CARR: Yes. It is also put to me that some foreign governments are now considering whether or not to use SVP status when considering licensing arrangements for international student enrolments.

Mr Wilden: That has not been brought to my attention.

Senator KIM CARR: That has not been put to you?

Mr Wilden: No.

Senator KIM CARR: Has the Victorian government put these concerns to you?

Mr Wilden: Personally, no. But I will go back and check the record to see if they have talked to any of our officials.

Senator KIM CARR: I do not mean to imply that you, as an individual officer—

Mr Wilden: No. But I do lead the division that looks after this policy.

Senator KIM CARR: My understanding is that the Victorian government has put these matters to the Commonwealth, and I would be particularly interested in what the response of the Commonwealth minister and the Commonwealth's is.

Senator Cash: We can take that on notice for you.

Answer:

The Department actively engages with stakeholders about the student visa programme (SVP).

In November 2014, the Department commenced a formal consultation process with external stakeholders regarding the future directions of the SVP arrangements. This included the release of a discussion paper.

32 submissions were received, including a submission from the Victorian Government.