

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 26 May 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE15/101) - Productivity Commission Report - Programme 2.3: Visas

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

Senator KIM CARR: In terms of the Productivity Commission's report on international student education, I take it the department was provided with a draft copy of the report.

Mr Wilden: I believe so, but I will confirm that.

Senator KIM CARR: And you had the opportunity to respond to issues in the report? Mr

Wilden: I will confirm. I mean, as with many of these things, we have a consultative process with the Productivity Commission. We provide information; they come back and clarify. So at various points in the process we engaged with them. I will check whether we got a chance to view their draft report and formally respond to that. I certainly know that there are aspects of the paper that the department feels possibly do not grasp all the subtleties around the system. But, as I said, that comes down to advice we are giving to government on the report and what it means.

Senator KIM CARR: We have already taken that up. I am particularly interested to know what areas you dispute in the Productivity Commission report.

Mr Wilden: I will come back to you with the details on those.

Answer:

The Productivity Commission's research paper on International Education Services has been considered as part of the Department's future directions for streamlined visa processing consultations.

The Productivity Commission engaged actively with the Department, among a wide range of stakeholders, in developing its report.