

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 25 May 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE15/149) - SHEVs - Programme 2.3: Visas

Senator Hanson-Young, Sarah (L&CA) written:

- When will asylum seekers be able to apply for SHEVs?
- How many SHEV holders does the Department expect to eventually receive permanent visas?

Answer:

Applicants will be able to apply for a SHEV following the nomination of regional areas by state and territory governments. The New South Wales Government has provided in-principle support for NSW to opt-in to the SHEV programme from 1 July 2015.

Unauthorised arrivals will be eligible to apply for a SHEV once the Minister lifts the bar on their application and they receive an invitation to apply for a SHEV or a Temporary Protection visa.

SHEV-holders who wish to apply for a permanent visa will need to spend 3.5 years in a specified regional area studying and/or working and without accessing social security benefits. It is not possible to anticipate at this early stage how many SHEV-holders will apply for and receive permanent visas.