

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 05 May 2016

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE16/008) - Streamlined process for New Zealand citizens - Programme 2.1: Citizenship

Senator Gallacher, Alex (L&CA 107) asked:

Senator GALLACHER: The first area I wanted to go to is expense measures, Budget Paper No. 2, page 121, streamlined process for New Zealand citizens. How many New Zealand citizens do you expect will take up this pathway?

Mr Pezzullo: I might ask Mr Groves to deal with the budget measure, and perhaps Mr Wilden, who is the policy owner, can attend as well if he is in the room. But why doesn't Mr Groves start on the budget measure itself?

Mr Groves: I do not have that number with me as part of the measure, but whether Mr Wilden has I will just check.

Senator GALLACHER: While we are looking for a number, do you know how many New Zealand citizens you expect to take up this pathway?

Mr Wilden: In the construction of the offer we had to look at a range of factors which will influence potential uptake. We can only really talk to that at the moment, because there are many other issues at play for the individuals concerned who may now be able to access that particular part of the program. There are about 60,000 to 70,000 New Zealanders who are eligible, who may choose to apply for that. But I have not got the number with me for the exact modelling for the budget measure about those we expect will apply.

Senator GALLACHER: If you could supply the modelling on notice, that would be fine.

Mr Wilden: Certainly.

Answer:

As this is a new stream within the annual Migration Programme, the Department has no previous data on which to base anticipated take-up of visa places. Therefore, the Department will closely monitor and manage any impact on the Skilled Independent stream of Australia's annual Migration Programme.

The Department has, however, prepared estimates based on a cohort of 70,000, and an assumption of 20 per cent applying for the pathway in the first year, then 10 per cent for each of the two following years.

Historical rejection rates derived from the Skilled Economic Migration Programme, of approximately 7 per cent were applied to arrive at the estimated level of grants for the new stream set out below:

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Projected Economic Grants	13,020	6,509	6,509
New Pathway Grants (primary)	4,890	2,445	2,445
New Pathway Grants (secondary >18)	3,157	1,578	1,578
New Pathway Grants (secondary <18)	4,973	2,486	2,486