

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 23 May 2017

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE17/086) - 457 Changes - Raising of age limit in 2012 - Programme 2.3: Visas

Senator Kakoschke-Moore, Skye (L&CA 34) asked:

Senator HUME: Right. Is there an age limit for permanent employer sponsor visas?

Mr Wilden: Yes.

Senator HUME: And that limit is 50?

Mr Pezzullo: We might ask Mr Wilden to weigh in on that.

Mr Wilden: We have it all here. In terms of age, currently, the employer-sponsored ENS, or the regional-sponsored visas, has an age limit of 50, with the occasional exemption.

Senator HUME: How long has the limit been at 50?

Mr Wilden: At least since 2012; possibly earlier.

Senator HUME: So the age limit was increased five years ago from—my understanding is 45.

Mr Wilden: Correct, and I think 2012 is about right, but I will come back to you on notice on that.

Mr Pezzullo: Was it raised?

Mr Wilden: Yes, it was raised from 45 to 50.

Senator HUME: So what evidence was there that informed that decision to raise the age limit?

Mr Wilden: I would have to go back and look at that.

Answer:

1. On 1 July 2012, major reforms to Australia's skilled migration programme included raising the upper age limit to 50 for all permanent employer sponsored visas. This decision was informed by a review of the employer sponsored visa programme conducted by the Department in 2011.