

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 22 May 2017

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE17/253) - 457 Visas – MACSM meetings - Programme 2.3: Visas

Senator Carr, Kim (L&CA) asked:

What were the dates of the meetings of the Ministerial Advisory Council on Skilled Migration (MACSM) which discussed the governments proposed abolition and replacement of the 457 visa?

And which members of the council attended those meetings?

Who attended these meetings representing the Department?

Did the Minister attend?

Did any other Departments attend these meetings?

If so, which Departments?

Answer:

1. Between 19 June 2015 and 23 May 2017, occupations list reform was discussed in all eight MACSM meetings held 19 June 2015, 18 September 2015, 11 December 2015, 8 April 2016, 17 June 2016, 23 September 2016, 2 December 2016 and 24 March 2017.

MACSM were consulted on a number of aspects of the changes introduced on 19 April 2017:

- the removal of occupations with an Australian citizenship requirement;
- the removal of occupations with low demand; and
- the use of occupation caveats.

Advice was not provided to MACSM on the impact of the specific changes to the occupation list, introduced on 19 April 2017.

2. Members of the Council who attended meetings between 19 June 2015 and 23 May 2017, are as follows:
 - Mr Innes Willox (Chair)
 - Mr John Azarias (Council member)
 - Ms Su McCluskey (Council member)
 - Ms Carol Giuseppi (Council member)
 - Mr Steve Knott (Council member)
 - Mr Brett Moller (Council member)
 - Ms Gerardine Kearney (Council member)
 - State and Territory Government representative.

3. The Department of Immigration and Border Protection is represented at MACSM meetings by various Departmental staff. This may include relevant First Assistant Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries and other staff as required.
4. The Minister for Immigration and Border Protection attended the following meetings:
 - 19 June 2015
 - 8 April 2016
 - 2 December 2016.
5. Yes, the Department of Employment regularly attends the meetings of MACSM.