

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 22 May 2017

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE17/260) - Distinguished talent visa criterion - Programme 2.3: Visas

Senator Carr, Kim (L&CA) asked:

How does the Department determine whether each of these criterion for DTVs have been adequately addressed? Please provide explanations and examples.

have an internationally recognised record of exceptional and outstanding achievement in a profession, a sport, the arts, or academia and research
are still prominent in the area

would be an asset to the Australian community

have no difficulty getting employment, or in becoming established independently in your field in Australia

Answer:

Delegated visa decision makers must be satisfied that an individual application for a Distinguished Talent visa meets the relevant regulations and policy instructions, based on information provided by the applicant, their nominators, other sources and research. In relation to the points identified in the question, departmental instructions address the following criteria:

- International recognition is assessed giving consideration to the international standing of the country where the applicant's achievements were realised as well as the standing of that achievement in relation to both Australian and international standards. An applicant rated at or near the top of their field in their home country would be expected to also have an international record of exceptional and outstanding achievement.
- Applicants are assessed not only on past performance but require evidence of their current prominence in their area. An applicant claiming distinguished talent in a particular area, but who has not been active at a high level in that area for more than two years would not be regarded as retaining prominence in that area.
- The visa assessment must find that an applicant would benefit the Australian community economically, socially or culturally, or by raising Australia's sporting, artistic or academic standards internationally.
- Factors considered in assessing if an applicant would have no difficulty in obtaining employment include employment contracts or offers of employment related to the area of achievement, and evidence of sponsorships, scholarships, grants or other payments intended to support the applicant while they are engaged in activities related to the area of achievement.

Materials considered in order to support the assessment can include details of qualifications, achievements, awards, positions held, supporting statements from internationally recognised individuals or organisations, national and international

rankings, results in competitions or tournaments and public records of such as newspaper and magazine articles attesting to achievements. The scale and audience of displays held and recognition by peers are also considered. Where relevant, an applicant's publishing history (books, articles in journals etc.) will be considered.