

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 20 OCTOBER 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE14/329) PROGRAMME –

Senator O'Neill (L&CA 23-24) asked:

Senator O'NEILL: We do have 338 identified but no longer know where they are going to be. Have any submissions been provided to the minister?

Mr Pezzullo: On the general question—which Dr Southern can amplify on—of improved intelligence, investigation and compliance around 457 visa monitoring, that was one of the matters reviewed as part of the 457 review more generally, which I am sure you would be aware of. Government is in the process of considering a response to that review, and ministers have indeed taken advice. An element of that advice pertained to—

Senator O'NEILL: Could you tell us which ministers?

Mr Pezzullo: The immediate minister is the assistant minister sitting at the table and the cabinet minister is Mr Morrison, who has overall responsibility for matters that ultimately require whole-of-government resolution.

Senator O'NEILL: And when was that advice proffered?

Mr Pezzullo: I am not sure, Dr Southern, whether I can call it the Azarias review, but it certainly was led by John Azarias. We will take on notice exactly when we started to provide advice to both ministers Cash and Morrison. But it was obviously subsequent to the tabling of that review, and government is in the final stages of considering its response to that review. What I am foreshadowing with you, Senator, and for the committee is that there will be an element about a strengthened approach to investigative capability.

Answer:

The department provided advice to Assistant Minister Cash on 1 September 2014 on the independent panel's recommendations following their review into integrity in the 457 programme. The advice provided the department's views of the panel's recommendations and likely implementation considerations.

The department provided further advice to both Minister Morrison and Assistant Minister Cash on 21 November 2014, to assist Government in considering its response to the independent panel's recommendations.