

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

### **SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 20 OCTOBER 2014**

#### **IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO**

#### **(SE14/450) PROGRAMME –**

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

Regarding the significant cost threshold filter that was changed you said in the November estimates you would expect to have a sense of it either late last year or early this year, has this been the case?

If so, what is it and how has it changed? (\*Note the threshold changed around 15 months from \$21,000 to \$35,000 and just before Nov estimates in July 2013 to \$40,000).

Will this threshold be a regular incremental change?

Approximately how many people/families are affected by this?

Has there been an increase/decrease in numbers due to the threshold? Discuss.

Have there been any ministerial interventions in such cases?

If so, how many?

*Answer:*

The Significant Cost Threshold (SCT) is reviewed annually prior to the commencement of the financial year and takes into account Australia's most up to date health care and welfare cost data as produced by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

Based on the latest data available from the AIHW, the SCT for the 2014-15 programme year has remained at \$40 000.

Data is not yet available for health related visa finalisations for the 2013-14 programme year when the SCT was \$40 000.

In 2012-13 (when the SCT was \$35 000), 192 people were refused a visa because they did not meet the health requirement. Of these, 11 were refused on public health grounds, 162 due to health care and community services costs and 19 due to conditions that would prejudice the access of health and community services by Australian citizens and permanent residents.

Disaggregated data is not available on how many people sought ministerial intervention as a result of not meeting the visa health requirement.