

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 19 October 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE15/108) - 457 Salary threshold indexation - Programme 2.3: Visas

Senator Carr, Kim (L&CA) written:

- 457 salary threshold indexation – The minimum salary has not been indexed since 1 July 2013.
 - Why is this?
 - What would the salary be if previous indexation process had been followed?
 - How many 457 visas have been nominated at salaries that would not be eligible if previous process had been followed?

Answer:

- The 2014 Independent Review into Integrity in the 457 Programme recommended that the Temporary Skilled Migration Income Threshold (TSMIT) be maintained at the level of \$53,900 and not undergo any further increase until it is reviewed within two years. The Government has recently announced its commitment to commencing the TSMIT review before the end of 2015.
- There are no legislative provisions governing the setting or indexation of the TSMIT, and previous increases have been at the discretion of the Minister.
- For the reason noted above the Department is unable to respond to other elements of this question.