

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 FEBRUARY 2008

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(59) Output 1.1: Migration and Temporary Entry

Senator Ellison asked:

Has the government commenced a review of the security and character checks required for overseas trained doctors?

Answer:

The national security scrutiny process for the Temporary Business (Long Stay) Subclass 457 and Medical Practitioner (Temporary) Subclass 422 visas is governed by the same set of rules that apply to the broader visa regime. Each application is assessed on its own merits against the regulatory criteria.

Subclass 422 requires applicants to provide penal clearances as part of the application process. Under the Subclass 457 visa process, penal checking is discretionary, in line with a range of other temporary visas. However, an applicant must sign a character declaration and if adverse information comes to light in that, or in any other circumstance, a penal check may be initiated.