

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

**ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 24 FEBRUARY 2009**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

### **(47) Output 1.1: Migration and Temporary Entry**

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

- (a) What opportunities are currently available for retirement visa holders to move to permanent residency?
- (b) Does the Minister or Department have any plans to reconsider the conditions associated with retirement visas giving them access to permanent residency?

*Answer:*

(a) Retirement (Subclass 410) visa holders do not have an automatic pathway to permanent residence. However, Australia offers a number of visa categories under which people can apply to migrate permanently. Each visa category has a different set of legal requirements which reflect the different purposes of the visas.

Retirement visa holders are able to apply for any permanent visa if they meet the applicable requirements. For example, some Subclass 410 visa holders have successfully applied for permanent residence in the Parent visa category.

(b) As I have indicated I am personally supportive of providing retirees with a pathway to permanent residence. The Department is investigating options.