

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27-28 May 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE13/0081) PROGRAM – 3.1: Border Management

Senator Rhiannon (L&CA 19) asked:

Senator RHIANNON: Could you provide us, either now or on notice, the classifications of the officers who make that decision and the different times?

Ms Larkins: Yes. I should just point out that they are trained in our protection process, so they are people who have considerable experience in assessing people's claims for protection.

Answer:

The APS classification for interviewers ranges from APS6 – EL2. A senior officer has a classification of Executive Level 1 (EL1) or above.

Following an enhanced screening interview, the interviewing officer forms a view about a person's case. This initial finding made by the interviewing officer is not final and binding, it is a view. The case is then referred to a senior officer of the Department. A screen out finding is only confirmed if both the interviewing officer and senior officer agree, otherwise the case is referred to another senior officer for a second opinion. Benefit of the doubt to the individual applies in any situation where two senior officers reach different views on a case, in which case the individual is screened in.