

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 OCTOBER 2008

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(21) Output: Internal Product

Senator Barnett (L&CA 45-46) asked:

Since the May 2008 estimates hearings, have there been any new external reviews involving external, expert bodies?

Answer:

Yes.

In June 2008 Mr Andrew Podger AO commenced a review of the implementation of the College of Immigration. The review was completed on 31 July 2008.

In July 2008 the Minister announced the appointment of a panel of experts to the Skilled Migration Consultative Panel to provide advice to Government on proposals aimed at improving Australia's temporary skilled migration program (Subclass 457 visa).

In August 2008 Ms Elizabeth Proust commenced an evaluation of the Palmer and Comrie Reform Agenda, including related Ombudsman Reports, to assess and report on the progress of the department's response to recommendations of the reports.

In September 2008 Senior Assistant Superintendent Mr Mark Kennedy, who is currently deployed with the State Emergency Unit of New South Wales Department of Corrective Services, commenced a review which will recommend strategies to improve prevention of illicit substance entry and use at Villawood IDC, and responses to related incidents and allegations.