

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 20 OCTOBER 2009

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(56) Program: Internal Product

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

1. List all legislative and administrative changes to immigration policy since the election of the Rudd Government, including changes:
 - a. in detention and asylum seeker policy, long-term detention, detention debt;
 - b. the 457 visa program, labour agreements, skilled migration, overseas worker programs
 - c. changes to the Migration Act and Migration Regulations
 - d. internal DIAC processes
 - e. changes to the Migration Program
 - f. citizenship
 - g. budget measures
 - h. changes in other visa categories
 - i. changes to ministerial powers and ministerial discretion
 - j. changes to Migration Review Tribunal and Refugee Review Tribunal.

Please include the date of the change, the program area of DIAC which administered the change and any consequential effects of those changes, including any increase in applications or claims pertinent to that measure.

2. Please compare all the changes outlined in answer to Question 1 with the existing policy and provisions prior to November 2007.

Answer:

The Department notes that there are a range of existing sources of information regarding the matters raised in part 1 of the question.

- Information about changes to immigration and citizenship policy since November 2007 is available in media releases and speeches made by the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, available on the Minister's website at: <http://www.minister.immi.gov.au/media>.
- Information about budget measures is published as part of the Department's Portfolio Budget Statements, available on the Department's website: <http://www.immi.gov.au/about/reports/budget/>.
- Information on changes to the *Migration Act 1958* and *Migration Regulations 1994* is available on the Department's website at: <http://www.immi.gov.au/legislation>.
- A range of information about the Department's activities and financial performance is published as part of the Department's annual reports, available on the Department's website at: <http://www.immi.gov.au/about/reports/annual/>.

To respond to the remaining aspects of questions one and two would require the Department to divert a large number of senior departmental officers from undertaking other critical responsibilities for an extended period. The Department considers that it would be unreasonable to divert such resources to this task.