

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 15 October 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE12/0258) PROGRAM – 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Di Natale (written) asked:

Whole of portfolio - Relating to the Joint Standing Committee on Migration, 'The Migration Treatment of Disability: Enabling Australia' Report (tabled 21 July 2010) and its recommendations: Apart from that mentioned above, what other policy and program work has the Department completed consistent with the recommendations of the report of the Joint Standing Committee on Migration, 'The Migration Treatment of Disability: Enabling Australia' (the Report) since 1 July 2012?

Answer:

The Government response to the report was tabled on 1 November 2012 and provides detailed information on responses to the recommendations.

In addition to the measures already implemented, the Department has been reviewing Australia's health requirements through the lens of a proposed 'Net Benefit Approach'. The Net Benefit Approach consists of a fiscal net benefit model and more flexible waiver process.

The Net Benefit Approach will allow decision makers to consider the social and economic benefits that an applicant and their family bring to Australia. This will ensure a fairer, more flexible and individualised approach for visa applicants who have a disability or health issues.