

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 FEBRUARY 2008

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

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

Senator Ellison (L&CA 29-30) asked:

In relation to the drop-off in state sponsored migration, if available, provide further information on the reasons for the decline.

*Answer:*

The Department's Annual Report 2006-07, Table 4: Migration Programme outcome – skill stream indicates a 13.5 per cent drop-off in the 2006-07 state sponsored migration in comparison to the previous program year. Persons applying for a General Skilled Migration visa need to nominate an occupation on the Skilled Occupation List (SOL), which is the list of occupations that are suitable for skilled migration purposes. If an applicant's nominated occupation is also on the Migration Occupations in Demand List (MODL) the applicant can receive additional points. The MODL includes occupations and specialisations identified by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) that are in short supply.

There has been a trend to increase the number of occupations on MODL. In May 2004, the MODL included approximately six per cent of the occupations listed on the SOL, this figure is now approximately 23 per cent.

The increase in occupations identified on the MODL has led to an increase in the proportion of applicants able to access additional points for migration purposes. Consequently, more applicants have been able to satisfy the general points test independently, rather than relying on obtaining state sponsorship to secure a visa.

Obtaining sponsorship requires the applicant to make concomitant undertakings to the sponsor in order to obtain their support. These undertakings may delay the application and make this option less attractive if an applicant is able to independently meet the points test.

While the 13.5 per cent drop in state sponsored migration numbers led to a reduction of approximately 1 090 people, the 8.7 per cent increase in the Skilled Independent category, led to an increase of approximately 4 320 people.