

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE12/0165) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Cash asked:

How much does the department expect to raise from an increase in the VAC from some visa classes which took effect in January 2012?

Answer:

The department changed the base VAC of some visa classes from 1 January 2012 to bring Australia's visa application charge structure into line with comparable countries. Student visa application charges reduced by 5 per cent, increasing the competitiveness of Australia's international education sector. At the same time, fees for a range of Skills and Business visas increased by between 5 per cent and 15 per cent. Humanitarian visas and most Visitor visas were not affected by the change.

The additional revenue the department expects to collect from the changes, including the flow on effects through the period of the forward estimates, is provided in the table below:

	2011-12 (\$'m)	2012-13 (\$'m)	2013-14 (\$'m)	2014-15 (\$'m)
Increased revenue from VAC increase *	5.9	21.9	23.2	23.0

* These estimates are based on 2010-11 visa numbers and various growth rates in the affected visa classes.