

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE12/0180) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Cash asked:

Have any representations being made to increase the duration of the Working Holiday Maker (WHM) visa from 12 months? If yes, what were these representations?

Answer:

The Australian tourism sector has suggested changes to the Working Holiday Maker visa program which would allow visa holders to stay in Australia for longer than 12 months. These suggestions include:

- a) expanding the second Working Holiday (Subclass 417) eligibility framework to include tourism work, thereby potentially increasing the pool of second Working Holiday visa holders in Australia; and
- b) allowing eligible nationals to acquire one Working Holiday (Subclass 417) visa when aged 18-25, and then allowing acquisition of a second such visa when aged 26-35.

These suggestions are being considered.