

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE12/0192) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Cash asked:

The Government anticipates having the new visa processing arrangements in place “in time for second semester” – do you have a more specific date? Provide an update on where that process is at?

Answer:

The streamlined visa processing arrangements are proposed for introduction on 24 March 2012, subject to the relevant changes to the *Migration Regulations 1994* being approved by the Governor-General through the legislative approval process.

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship has been working closely with stakeholders including universities, Universities Australia and the Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education to progress the streamlined visa processing arrangements and to ensure the arrangements are implemented in a practical, timely way, without impacting on the integrity of the student visa program or placing undue regulatory burden on any of the parties.