

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE12/0214) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Cash asked:

With regards to the Skills Select model: How many written invitations does the Minister expect to issue on a monthly basis? Is there a timeframe in which the Minister must issue a written invitation once an expression of interest is received? If not, why not?

Answer:

The Minister will only issue as many invitations as are required to fill the places in the annual migration program. These invitations will be spread throughout the migration program year to ensure a steady number of visa grants. An expression of interest (EOI) is not a visa application, meaning there is no obligation for the Minister to invite any person who submits an EOI.

EOI will remain in SkillSelect for up to two years. Potential migrants can update their EOI at any time so that it accurately reflects their current skills and attributes. If a potential migrant has not been issued an invitation or been sponsored by a state or employer by the conclusion of the two year period, then they will be able to make a new EOI if they wish.