

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE12/0230) Program 1.1

Senator Cash asked:

Why do chefs and cooks remain outside the schedule 1 skilled occupations covered by the 457 visa? What is the policy rationale for this decision?

Answer:

The occupations of cook and chef are both eligible occupations under the subclass 457 visa program. Both occupations are listed in schedule 1 of legislative instrument IMMI 10/085, "*Specification of occupations for nominations in relation to Subclass 457 (Business (Long Stay)) and Subclass 442 (Occupational Trainee) visas*".

In 2011-12 to 31 January 2012 there have been 1,195 subclass 457 visas granted to cooks and chefs, with 63 per cent of these grants to cooks.