

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21-22 MAY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE12/0192) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Cash (L&CA written) asked:

Enterprise migration agreements: How many industry stakeholders requested a peak workforce of lower than 1,500 (but not specifically the figure of 1,000)? Is the government considering a lower threshold? If not, why not? If so, what is this lower threshold?

Answer:

In the consultations prior to the commencement of the EMA program, the Australian Government sought the views of a wide range of stakeholders, including peak industry bodies, other government agencies and unions. Each stakeholder group held a variety of views on the parameters for the program and the Department briefed the Minister on the totality of these views.

It should be noted that the views of some stakeholders changed over time. Given this variability, the Department does not have records on the exact number of individual stakeholders that expressed support for lower peak workforce threshold.

The current setting is a balanced position of these views that acknowledges the labour requirements in the resources sector through the use of a streamlined, front-ended migration arrangement.