

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27-28 May 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE13/0029) PROGRAM – 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Cash (L&CA 61) asked:

Senator CASH: In terms of the 700 places, have they been directly removed from the skilled stream?

[...]

Senator CASH: Are there any costs associated with the change?

[...]

Mr Kukoc: I will need to take this question on notice.

Answer:

The 700 additional places in the Family Stream have been directly removed from the Skill Stream. This move will see a minor reduction in places in the Skill Stream from 129 250 to 128 550 places – a 0.5 per cent reduction.

Within the Skill Stream:

- 560 places will come from the Skilled Independent category (being reduced to 44 990 from 45 550 in 2012-13).
- 140 places will come from the Business Innovation and Investment Program (BIIP) category (being reduced to 7260 from 7400 in 2012-13).

This change, along with a minor rebalancing of the Family Stream, will deliver a slightly positive net impact of \$19.3 million to the Commonwealth Budget in underlying cash terms over the Forward Estimates.