

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

### **SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010**

#### **IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO**

##### **(212) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration**

Senator Cash asked:

What is going to be done about those current General Skilled Migration applications which do not have processing priority?

Answer:

The Department will continue to deliver the number of migrants set by the Government under the Migration Program. In 2010-11, the total figure set is 168,700, made up of 113,850 places in the skill stream, 54,550 places in the family stream and 300 special eligibility places.

In processing applications, Departmental officers must take into account any Ministerial Directions issued, including Direction number 48 made under Section 499 of the Migration Act, which relates to the processing priority for certain skilled migration visas. All applications are assigned a processing priority under the Direction. Departmental officers are obliged to process applications according to the Direction.