

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE:

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE11/0180) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Cash asked:

Employer Nominated Skilled Visa: I refer to the answer given to EQON BE11/0116 regarding how the Government has allocated the \$5.9 million to reform the application process for permanent Skilled Migration applicants. Provide an update as to the current status of the Skilled Migrant Selection Model, SkillSelect?

Answer:

SkillSelect will be implemented on 1 July 2012. The Department of Immigration and Citizenship is currently developing the appropriate supporting legislation and systems support to enable SkillSelect to be implemented on this date. SkillSelect will connect Australian businesses with a central database of prospective skilled migrants who they can contact and, if deemed suitable for both parties, sponsor. Access to the database will come at no cost for Australian businesses and may reduce advertising and recruiting costs to businesses. For employers in regional Australia, this feature is expected to be particularly beneficial as smaller regional businesses will be able to ascertain, as part of the information in the database, a skilled migrant's willingness to live and work in regional Australia.

SkillSelect will incorporate all of the skilled migration programs: Independent, State/Territory Nominated, Employer Nomination Scheme, Regional Sponsorship Migration Scheme and Business Skills visas and Temporary Employer Sponsored.

Part of the development of the SkillSelect system includes a partnership with the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations to make use of existing functionality in the Australian JobSearch database (jobsearch.gov.au). The development of the SkillSelect system is currently on track for implementation on 1 July 2012.