

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 17 OCTOBER 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE11/0183) Program 1.1 Visa and Migration

Senator Cash (L&CA) asked:

Employer Nominated Skilled visa: Has the Department seen an increase in the number of decision ready applications as a result of this initiative? How is this measured?

Answer:

The Department can measure the increase in e-lodged applications. There has been an increase of 2% to 3% in sponsorships, nominations and visa applications from 2010-2011 to 2011-2012 (year to date). These increases, whilst small are off a high base:

	2010-2011	2011-2012
Sponsorships	76.7%	79.6%
Nominations	89.7%	92.2%
Visas	87.6%	89.6%

The Department does not measure the number of decision ready applications, however improvement in the percentage of applications being finalised within two weeks is a clear indication that these applications are decision ready and can be finalised on allocation. This has increased from 30% in June 2011 to 40% in October 2011.