

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

### **SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 15 October 2012**

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

#### **(SE12/0237) PROGRAM – 1.1: Visa and Migration**

Senator Cash (written) asked:

In the May estimates hearings I referred to the DIAC website which stated “The department will release the RMA submission guidelines in March 2012, which will provide further guidance on the process for undertaking an RMA.” Mr Kukoc advised that the March 2012 release of the Regional Migration Agreement (RMA) submission guidelines had been delayed due to an extended consultative period with the states and territories, and were now expected to be released in June 2012. I note that the reference to a date of release for the RMA submission guidelines has been removed altogether, and the website now says “The department will release the RMA submission guidelines shortly” and “More information about the RMA program will be available in the coming months.’ Have those guidelines been released as yet? If not, when do you now expect them to be released? Is it reasonable to suggest that the low number of applications received is as a result of the lack of guidance from the Department?

*Answer:*

The guidelines have not yet been released. The Government is taking the opportunity to consult broadly with stakeholders and the community in a meaningful way to ensure that when the guidelines are issued they provide as much detail as possible to assist applicants in developing submissions.

Draft guidelines were provided to members of the Migration Advisory Council on Skilled Migration (MACSM) on 25 September 2012. Feedback is being sought from MACSM members. The guidelines will be made public after the Minister has been given the opportunity to consider them.