

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 FEBRUARY 2011**

**IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO**

**(56) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration**

Senator Cash asked:

What is the English language requirement for attaining a subclass 485 visa? How does it compare to the English language requirements for accessing a student visa?

*Answer:*

The English language requirement for attaining a subclass 485 visa is competent English. This means:

- an International English Language Testing System (IELTS) test score of at least 6 for each of the four test components of speaking, reading, writing and listening; or
- a score of at least ‘B’ in each of the four components of an Occupational English Language test; or
- that the applicant holds a specified passport.

The English language proficiency requirements for Student visas are determined by the relevant Assessment Level as per the table below.

<b>Assessment Level</b>	<b>Evidence of English Language Proficiency for Student visa Subclasses</b>
1	All subclasses: Enrolment by education provider
2	All subclasses: Enrolment by education provider
3	<b>Subclass 570 (ELICOS) and Subclass 571 (School Sector):</b> Enrolment by education provider  <b>Subclass 572 (Vocational Education and Training (VET)) and Subclass 575 (Non-Award):</b> 5.5 International English Language Testing System (IELTS) or 4.5 IELTS with a preliminary ELICOS course  <b>Subclass 573 (Higher Education) and Subclass 574 (Postgraduate Research):</b> 6.0 IELTS or 5.0 IELTS with ELICOS course

Assessment Level	Evidence of English Language Proficiency for Student visa Subclasses
4	<p><b>Subclass 570 (ELICOS)</b> 5.0 IELTS</p> <p><b>Subclass 571 (School Sector)</b> If over 16 years, 5.0 IELTS or 4.0 IELTS with preliminary ELICOS</p> <p><b>Subclass 572 (VET) and Subclass 575 (Non-Award):</b> 5.5 IELTS or 5.0 IELTS with a preliminary ELICOS course</p> <p><b>Subclass 573 (Higher Education), Subclass 574 (Higher Education) and Subclass 574 (Postgraduate Research):</b> 6.0 IELTS or 5.0 IELTS with ELICOS course</p>
5	<p><b>All subclasses:</b> IELTS 7.0.</p>