

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE12/0179) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Cash asked:

Does the Department review the Working Holiday Maker visa on a regular basis? If so, when was the last review of this visa subclass? Has the Department had concerns raised with it regarding the length of the WHM Visa? If so, what are these concerns?

Answer:

The Department undertakes regular reviews of the Working Holiday Maker visa program. The last review occurred during 2009-10. The report on this review is available at: http://www.immi.gov.au/media/publications/research/_pdf/whm-report.pdf

The Department has received representations from the Australian tourism sector regarding increasing the length of stay for visa holders. This is being considered.