

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

**(AE12/0182) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration**

Senator Cash asked:

Has the Department had representations made to it or concerns raised with it regarding the duration of Working Holiday Maker (WHM) visas for visitors who work in specific rural and regional areas in Western Australia, Queensland or the Northern Territory? If so, what are the nature of these considerations? Is there any merit in undertaking this change?

*Answer:*

Under the initiative, a Working Holiday Maker (417) visa holder who undertakes three months (88 days) 'specified work' in regional Australia during their stay acquires eligibility for a second Working Holiday visa. 'Specified work' is specifically targeted at employment in the agriculture, mining and construction industries.

The Department has received representations from industry and other stakeholders regarding the possible expansion of the definition of regional Australia.

The tourism industry has also made representations that work in the hospitality and tourism areas should be included in the definition of specified work.