

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE12/0217) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Cash asked:

With regards to Skill Select: What procedures are in place to deal with the increase in applications expected prior to the commencement of the program on 1 July 2012?

Answer:

The Department does not expect the increase in applications prior to the commencement of SkillSelect to be as large as increases previously experienced in the lead up to skilled migration changes.

The increase in applications will be limited due to the significant reforms to skilled migration that have already taken place with the revocation of the Migration Occupations in Demand List, the introduction of a new Skilled Occupation List and the review of the points test. Any increase in applications would come from individuals who meet these new requirements or are subject to the transitional arrangements announced on 8 February 2010. Normal procedures for receiving applications are expected to be sufficient to handle any increase.