

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 24 MAY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE11/0117) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Cash asked:

How does the "new" Skilled Migration Selection Model differ from the previous one?

Answer:

The Skilled Migration Selection Model, otherwise known as *SkillSelect*, is a fundamental change from the existing system.

The previous (current) system is essentially passive in its features: prospective migrants meet a set of broad requirements and are then processed broadly in the order in which they applied.

SkillSelect is an actively managed system. Through *SkillSelect* the Government will invite prospective migrants who score the highest on the points test to apply for permanent residency.

In particular, under *SkillSelect*, new applicants for independent, family or state/territory sponsored migration from 1 July 2012, will need to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) and receive from the Minister, an invitation to lodge a visa application. Invitations will be issued on the basis of labour market need rather than to those who applied first.