

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 24 MAY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE11/0119) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Cash asked:

How will you ensure the places are allocated to the best candidates across a wide variety of occupations in the new Skilled Migration Selection Model?

Answer:

The Skilled Migrant Selection Model, otherwise known as SkillSelect, will remove the ability for a prospective migrant to apply directly for an independent, or state/territory sponsored permanent skilled migration visa. Instead, they will be required to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) and receive a written invitation from the Minister before being eligible to lodge a visa application.

Each EOI will include biographical data and details of skills, qualifications, work experience and English language ability. On the basis of the information provided, each EOI will be allocated a notional score using the Points Test. Invitations to apply for migration will be issued starting from those who score the highest in each occupational group until the available program places in each visa category have been reached.

For state/territory and family sponsored skilled migrants, the issue of an invitation will be predicated on the receipt of a valid sponsorship.