

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21-22 MAY 2012**

**IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO**

**(BE12/0200) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration**

Senator Cash asked:

Has the Department had representations made to it regarding increasing the upper age limit of the WHM visa from 30 to 35 or even older? If so, what are the nature of these representations?

*Answer:*

The Australian tourism sector has suggested changes to the Working Holiday Maker visa program which would include extending the age range to 35 years.

The Department has consulted with stakeholder agencies on changes to the Working Holiday Maker program to support tourism and other industries and further work is ongoing. Any outcomes will be announced once any changes are agreed by Government.