

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(213) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Cash asked:

What is the public policy reason behind changing the rules so that people's General Skilled Migration applications may never be processed? Is this fair?

Answer:

This question is taken to refer to the Minister's decision to cap and cease certain offshore skilled migration visa subclasses, which was announced in February 2010.

Under this arrangement, any outstanding applications made before 1 September 2007 were ceased and visa application charges can be refunded. This cap was set and reached in June 2010. The power to cap and cease applications has existed for many years.