

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(215) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Cash asked:

Does the Department consider it satisfactory situation to have potential General Skilled Migration applicants, who include current overseas students in Australia, unable to make any plans because no-one knows how the General Skilled Migration program may change?

Answer:

Requirements for skilled migration have always changed to reflect the prevailing economic conditions of the time. This is made clear to students when they apply for their visas.

Australia runs a skilled migration program to meet the needs of the Australian labour market and strengthen the whole economy. The skilled migration program needs to be responsive to economic conditions if it is to deliver maximum economic benefit to Australia.