

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 15 October 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE12/0243) PROGRAM – 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Cash (written) asked:

SkillSelect: With respect to page 2 of the July 2012 SkillSelect activity document published on the website, why are the ENS, RSMS and 457 visa applications included in the SkillSelect activity list? Aren't they actual visa applications rather than Expression of Interest applications? Is it correct that all of the applications for ENS, RSMS and 457 will be assessed rather than entered into the SkillSelect lottery?

Answer:

These categories are included because clients can submit an Expression of Interest for the permanent employer sponsored visas (ENS and RSMS) and the temporary employer sponsored 457 visa through SkillSelect. The use of SkillSelect by Australian employers for these visas is discretionary and was implemented as a feature of SkillSelect to enable employers to make contact with intending skilled migrants with a view to filling vacancies that cannot be filled through the Australian labour market. SkillSelect does not issue invitations to apply for these visa types.