

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 15 October 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE12/0245) PROGRAM – 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Cash (written) asked:

SkillSelect: Referring to the statistics published for July and August, there have been 14,696 expressions of interest submitted in that two month period and only 1,067 invitations issued (so only 7% of those prospective migrants who submit an EOI are actually fortunate enough to be invited to submit an application). From those invitations issued, 82 visa applications have been lodged and only 6 have been granted. Why have only 6 been granted?

Answer:

SkillSelect commenced on 1 July 2012 and from this point onwards client were able to lodge Expressions of Interest (EOIs). Clients issued with Invitations to Apply (ITAs) then have 60 days to lodge the relevant visa application, after which the DIAC case officer commences processing of the application.

In the first months of operation of SkillSelect the numbers of visas granted reflected the fact that the system only commenced on 1 July 2012, the time period between issuing the invitation to apply and clients lodging the relevant application and the time period between lodgement of the visa application and assessment of it by DIAC. Consequently the numbers of applications lodged and visas granted in July and August were only a small percentage of the number of EOIs submitted and ITAs issued.