

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 15 October 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE12/0247) PROGRAM – 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Cash (written) asked:

SkillSelect: Is there a legislative definition of the word “invitation”? What makes a valid invitation for the purposes of the SkillSelect system? What defines the scope of an “invitation” for the purposes of the forthcoming visa criteria?

Answer:

The word “invitation” is not defined in the legislation. The word, therefore, has its ordinary meaning.

Any form of invitation by the Minister to apply for a relevant visa would be valid provided it comes within the ordinary meaning of the word “invitation”. However, the Minister has decided that invitations will be issued only in writing, and only to persons who have submitted an expression of interest in SkillSelect and have been ranked in accordance with the published process for assessment of expressions of interest.