

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 9 FEBRUARY 2010

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

#### **(121) Program 4.1: Visa Compliance and Status Resolution**

Senator Humphries asked:

- (1) What is the current budget for the conduct of compliance activities in the Department?
- (2) What activities are undertaken?
- (3) Can you provide full details?
- (4) How does the budget this year compare with other years?

*Answer:*

- (1) The budget for the conduct of compliance activities (Outcome 4.1 Visa Compliance and Status Resolution) in 2009-2010 is \$123 920 000.
- (2) Program 4.1 Visa Compliance and Status Resolution aims to undertake an effective program of prevention and deterrence with enforcement used as a last resort that seeks to:
  - achieve adherence to Australian entry and stay requirements;
  - identify and respond to breaches of immigration law in Australia;
  - detect and locate persons who have no lawful authority to be in Australia or are in breach of conditions that apply to their visa (for example, people working in breach of their conditions);
  - protect the public through the cancellation or refusal of visas to non-citizens who may be of concern to the public for reasons such as their involvement in serious criminal activity;

- obtain a substantive immigration outcome for unlawful non-citizens in a lawful, timely, fair and reasonable manner; and
- remove people who have no lawful basis to remain in Australia.

(3) The program delivers services to develop, implement and undertake:

- general compliance activities including outreach and educational activities particularly with employers, unions and educational institutions and other government agencies;
- the investigation of possible breaches of immigration law and, where appropriate, the prosecution of individuals or third parties involved in the systematic abuse of the immigration systems;
- the cancellation or refusal of visas particularly for individuals who are in breach of their visa conditions or present a risk to the Australian community;
- the initial and ongoing immigration detention of unlawful non-citizens in accordance with the Government's detention values;
- the management of clients both in detention and the community to a substantive immigration outcome; and
- the removal of clients who have no lawful basis to remain in Australia.

(4) The cost of the conduct of compliance activities (Output Group 1.4) in 2008-2009 was \$123 267 000.

The cost of the conduct of compliance activities (Output Group 1.4) in 2007-2008 was \$117 289 000.