

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO

Program: Administrative Appeals Tribunal

Question No. SBE16/070

Senator McKim asked the following question at the hearing on 18 October 2016:

Ms Leatham: I will find that for you. In this financial year \$4.667 million was provided for the Immigration Assessment Authority.

Senator McKIM: What governs future allocations? Is it negotiated on a year by year basis or is there an MOU or—

Ms Leatham: There is an MOU. My understanding is that there has been funding agreed until 2017-18 but beyond that there will need to be discussions with the department.

Senator McKIM: Does it continue at the same rate—the \$4.667 million?

Ms Leatham: I will have to check whether I have the forward estimates in relation to that.

Senator McKIM: I am happy for you to take that on notice.

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

The funding for the Immigration Assessment Authority (IAA) was provided by a transfer of appropriations from the Department of Immigration and Border Protection to the Migration Review Tribunal-Refugee Review Tribunal (MRT-RRT) under section 75 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* in 2015. The appropriations transferred to the MRT-RRT for the purpose of funding the IAA were:

- \$4,663,000 for 2014-15
- \$4,699,000 for 2015-16
- \$4,749,000 for 2016-17.

On 1 July 2015, the MRT-RRT was amalgamated with the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

The initial appropriations transfer determined the rate of funding for the 2014–15, 2015–16 and 2016–17 financial years. There is no funding allocated for the 2017–18 financial year.