

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 15 February 2012

Question: E12-067

OUTCOME 0: Whole of Portfolio

Topic: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Written Question on Notice

Senator McKenzie asked:

- a) Has the Department/agency received any advice on how to respond to FOI requests?
- b) What was the total cost to the department to process FOI requests for 2009-10 and 2010-11?
- c) What is the total cost to the department to process FOI requests for this financial year to date?

Answer:

- a) The Australian Information Commissioner has issued guidelines for the purposes of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act). The Department of Health and Ageing has regard to the Guidelines in the performance of functions and exercise of powers under the FOI Act.
- b) The Department is not able to provide a total costing for processing FOI requests. The non-staff *costs directly attributable to FOI for the financial year 2009-2010 was \$226,547. The non-staff costs directly attributable to FOI for the financial year 2010-2011 was \$267,110.
- c) The non-staff costs directly attributable to FOI from 1 July 2011 to 15 February 2012 to process FOI requests is \$450, 841.62.

*non-staff costs include photocopying, postage, telephone calls, travel, solicitors fees, Legal Counsel fees, applicant litigation costs and training.