

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 23 May 2017

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE17/140) - Legacy case-load - protection claims - Programme 2.4: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Pratt, Louise (L&CA 98 and 99) asked:

Senator PRATT: Yes, my question is about whether they do not comply. I want to know if noncompliance has been factored in to the budget in any way.

Ms Zakharoff: We do have an assumption around, potentially, a rate of people who may not lodge.

Senator PRATT: How many people are you assuming—

Mr Pezzullo: Mr Groves will be able to put that in evidence.

Mr Groves: I can outline what the costing assumption was that was reflected in the budget papers. It was assumed that 2½ thousand would lose access to those benefits in 2017-18.

Mr Pezzullo: Mr Groves, is that directly as a result of noncompliance with the measure or more generally because they are transitioning to other streams of income support?

Mr Groves: That assumption was really around this particular measure.

Senator PRATT: So 2½ thousand people, and what is the estimated saving to the budget?

Mr Groves: I would have to take that on notice. There are a number of components within that measure.

Senator PRATT: Is that within the DSS budget? Would they have those figures or do you have those figures?

Mr Groves: No, that would be in our budget. The complicating factor is that this was a continuation of an existing measure with a number of components to it. This was just one component. There was a continuation of SRSS funding arrangements for the department, generally, associated with processing the legacy case load, so I would have to break that particular component out.

Senator PRATT: If you could do that on notice, please. It sounds like, within the budget figures, there is an assumption about a saving of some kind based on those 2½ thousand people not lodging—is that correct?

Answer:

The Department has assumed that 2,500 people will no longer receive Status Resolution Support Services (SRSS) funding due to non-compliance with the requirement to lodge a Temporary Protection Visa application by October 2017. This results in estimated savings of \$34.4m in the 2017-18 financial year.