

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 20 OCTOBER 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE14/089) PROGRAMME – Internal Product

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

What are the funding arrangements for the Ministers' office and the Assistant Minister's office?

- a. Is there a specific budget for both offices?
- b. Has a specific funding allocation been set aside within the department to meet the costs of operating the ministerial offices in the portfolio.
- c. Are there administrative arrangements that apply to these budgets?
- d. Obviously the Minister(s) or his office cannot spend these funds on anything they like.
- e. Can you provide details of those administrative arrangements?
- f. Can you advise the Committee of the arrangement for expenditure by the minister or his office on hospitality?
- g. Have the minister or his office used the office budget or directly drew on departmental funds for hospitality purposes.
- h. If so what are the details.

Answer:

There is a combined annual budget which has a specific funding allocation for the offices of the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection and the Assistant Minister for Immigration and Border Protection. This budget allows the department to meet the costs of operating the ministerial offices.

- a. Yes;
- b. Yes;
- c. Yes;
- d–e. The Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) has set administrative arrangements that apply to these budgets. Both offices have been allocated separate cost centres and are managed by a departmental cost centre manager. The expenditure is reviewed monthly by the cost centre manager. The administrative arrangements align with the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013, which is publicly available;
- f. DIBP has provided hospitality guidelines to the office for their use;
- g. No;
- h. Not applicable.