

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 24 FEBRUARY 2009

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(29) Output 2.3: Australian Citizenship

Senator Barnett (L&CA 85) asked:

Provide a breakdown of the cost of the Citizenship Test Review Committee.

Answer:

In the Budget Estimates Hearings of May 2008, the Department advised that an estimate cost for the review of the Australian citizenship test was \$220 000.

The total cost of the review from 21 February 2008 through to 5 August 2008 when the Committee presented their findings to the Minister was \$221 131, broken down as follows:

Committee Chair and Members (non-government) x 4 <i>includes:</i> Sitting fees: \$ 85 472 Travel and reimbursements \$ 46 459	\$131,931
Committee Members (government) x 2 ** <i>includes:</i> Travel and reimbursements \$ 22 333	\$22,333
Community Consultations (Australia wide) <i>includes:</i> Venue and equipment hire, refreshments	\$11,245
Committee Meetings (Canberra) <i>includes:</i> Venue and equipment hire, refreshments	\$3,232
Secretariat Travel <i>includes:</i> Flights, accommodation, taxis and meal allowances This cost does not include staff salaries	\$17,833
Website Development and Maintenance <i>includes:</i> Design and development, domain name registration, security risk assessment	\$22,051
Administration <i>includes:</i> Stationery, software, printing of customised envelopes and report	\$12,506

All costs listed above are inclusive of GST.

** Two members of the committee were government employees during the term of the review. As government employees, they are not entitled to a daily sitting fee.