

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 FEBRUARY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(1) Program: Portfolio Tribunals (MRT-RRT)

Senator Cash (L&CA 6) asked:

In terms of additional cost to the budget, what are the anticipated additional costs for these additional 20 tribunal members?

Answer:

The tribunals anticipated a total membership of 93 in 2010-11. This has been reduced to an active membership of 81 including as a result of 8 members being engaged as Independent Merits Reviewers for a 2 year period.

As a result, if the Governor-General appoints 20 members this would result in a net increase of 8 members over the planned 2010-11 membership level of 93.

The costs would depend on the mix of full-time and part-time members, and the availability of the part-time members. This mix will be decided upon during the application process, given the availability of applicants. The Remuneration Tribunal independently sets the salaries of members.