

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 FEBRUARY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(30) Program: Internal Product

Senator Cash asked:

What did the Department pay in litigation costs in 2009-2010? Year to date? How much funding was provided under the ASA to asylum seekers in the year to date? How much of that was for asylum seekers in the review process? At what stages of the review process?

Answer:

In the 2009-2010 financial year the Department paid \$14 812 413 in litigation costs for legal services provided to the Department by its external service providers. For the current financial year to 28 February 2011 the Department has paid \$9 214 451 in litigation costs for legal services provided to the Department by its external service providers.

For the current financial year to 28 February 2011 \$9 399 391 was provided to asylum seekers under the ASA scheme.

Approx \$976 520 of this amount was for asylum seekers in the merits review process.

ASA payments cease 7 working days after the Refugee Review Tribunal (RRT) decision date.

The Department and the ASA service provider, Red Cross, are not able to extract information to report on financial expenditure at the different stages of the review process.