

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE12/0009) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash asked:

The costs since the 2008-09 budgets have increased from less than \$500 million over the forward estimates to more than \$3 billion based on the current figures. Again, I ask you, what was the impact on your department of the changes in policy of the Rudd and Gillard governments? Was it an increase in costs?

Answer:

The department responds to changes in government policy by prioritising resources and putting in place the necessary mechanisms to support implementation.

Expenditure on Irregular Maritime Arrivals (IMAs) related activities has increased from approximately \$72.674 million in 2007-08 to \$1,010.426 million in 2011-12.

A table below shows the year on year reported expenses for IMA related activity.

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
	\$'million	\$'million	\$'million	\$'million	\$'million
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimate
Administered	23.361	22.003	177.185	632.351	753.100
Departmental	49.313	58.856	57.142	188.335	257.326
TOTAL	72.674	80.859	234.326	820.686	1,010.426

Notes:

2007-08 and 2008-09 departmental expenditure include depreciation of \$6.6 million and \$19.6 million respectively. Following the accounting and reporting changes for depreciation introduced as part of Operation Sunlight, the 2009-10 and 2010-11 actuals, and 2011-12 estimates do not include depreciation.