

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE12/0023) Program: Internal Product

Senator Cash asked:

Has the Department been required to pay compensation to current or ex-detainees over the 2010 – 2011 financial year and the year to date either as a result of a court action or as a settlement out of court? Please provide details.

Answer:

The Department, normally through its insurer Comcover, has paid compensation for alleged injury to immigration detainees or alleged wrongful detention over the 2010 – 2011 financial year and the financial year to 31 December 2011. All of these payments were in relation to people detained prior to August 2007.

Departmental records show that for the 2010 – 2011 financial year, \$3,794,492.50 in compensation was paid in 19 cases and for this financial year (to 31 December 2011) \$1,383,000.00 in compensation was paid in 5 cases. These figures are approximate only as some amounts are recorded as inclusive of costs and others are exclusive of costs. These figures include compensation paid in relation to formal cases before the courts and where individuals were paid compensation following assessment of complaints not filed in court.