

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE12/0167) Program Internal Product: Internal Product]

Senator Cash asked:

What is the cost of issuing a visa by class onshore? Does the VAC meet the cost of visa services provided?

Answer:

The Department does not attribute actual costs of issuing a visa by visa sub-class by onshore post.

All revenue collected from Visa Application Charges (VAC) by the Department is collected as Administered Revenue and deposited into Consolidated Revenue. None of the revenue is retained by the Department to pay for the day to day costs of operations. The Government determines the appropriate application charge for each visa class based on its assessment of the whole of Government costs that are likely to be incurred by that visa holder.

In 2010-11, the Department collected approximately \$927.7 million in VAC. This is compared with the Department's total expenses of \$1 295.1 million.