

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 11 February 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE13/0168) PROGRAM – Migration Review Tribunal and Refugee Review Tribunal

Senator Cash (Written) asked:

With reference to Recommendation 18 of the Lavarch Review – “That the Tribunals be resourced adequately to meet the new IMA caseload as well as to implement the proposals to reduce the backlog and reform and improve operations and organisational culture.” Have adequate resources now been supplied? What are ‘adequate’ resources? Has the backlog successfully been reduced?

Answer:

The tribunals received additional funding in the 2012-13 budget for the costs associated with the Irregular Maritime Arrival cases. Also in that year additional members were appointed to the tribunals. The tribunals always plan to operate within the resources provided by Government.

Lodgement from 1 July 2012 to 28 February 2013, have risen by 36% compared with the same period in the previous financial year. There continues to be a backlog given this increase in lodgements.