

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 22 May 2006**

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

### **(147) Output 1.2: Refugee and Humanitarian Entry and Stay**

Senator Nettle (L&C 125-126 and written) asked:

1. The portfolio budget statement on page 91 talks about a bilateral arrangement between ASIO and the department of immigration which operates on a cost-recovery basis. How much did ASIO charge Immigration under this agreement in the last year? Can you provide that figure for the last five years? Can that information be broken down in any way or is it a lump sum for the service in regard to the number of detainees?
2. Typically, what sort of cost recovery items does ASIO specify when submitting claims to DIMA? Please provide examples of common cost recovery items.

*Answer:*

1. The existing arrangement with ASIO is limited to security assessments in respect of unauthorised arrivals seeking protection and the processing of applications for further protection from Temporary Protection Visa holders. Accounts are provided to DIMA broken down on a monthly basis and vary in accordance with the relevant ASIO resource usage. There were no payments made under this arrangement in 1999-2000. The total payments made to ASIO in respect of security assessments for protection visa applicants under this arrangement amounted to some \$570,000 for 2000-01, some \$555,000 for 2001-02, some \$290,000 for 2003-04 and some \$630,000 for 2004-05.
2. ASIO costs related to Protection Visa processing include relevant salary costs, travel costs and other expenses reasonably expected to be directly associated with the processing of unauthorised arrivals and processing of further protection visas such as taxi fares, short term vehicle hire, interpreters and investigation costs.