

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 22 May 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(158) Output 1.2: Refugee and Humanitarian Entry and Stay

Senator Nettle asked:

How much of that (\$40 million in PBS 05/06) was spent on litigating protection visa related claims last year?

Answer:

Clarification of the question was sought from Senator Nettle's office. This confirmed that the question related to the proportion of total expenditure for litigation relating to protection visas.

For the financial year 2004-05 the Department spent \$34.2m for professional fees and disbursements on litigation before the Courts and the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

For the period 1 July 2005 to 31 May 2006 the Department spent \$28.7m for professional fees and disbursements on litigation before the Courts and the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

Approximately 66% of this expenditure relates to protection visa litigation.

As such for the financial year 2004-05 we estimate that \$22.6m was spent on protection visa litigation and for the period 1 July 2005 to 31 May 2006 we estimate that \$18.9m was spent on protection visa litigation.