

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 22 May 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(18) Output: Internal Product

Senator Nettle asked:

Why has the projected cost for detention increased by \$44 million to \$172 million in the 2006-07 budget than the 2005-2006 budget?

Answer:

The primary reason for the difference between the 2005-06 Estimated actual and the 2006-07 Budget estimate is the impact of new measures announced in the 2006-07 Budget, primarily:

- Securing Borders against Illegal Foreign Fishing – detention services (\$13 million);
- Systems for People – ensuring well trained and supported staff (\$14 million); and
- Detention Services – implementation of health & contract reviews (\$8 million);

In addition to the above, there were funding impacts from measures announced in prior years:

- Palmer and Comrie Reports – implementation plan (\$7 million increase over 2005-06 funding); and
- Detention facilities – new long term onshore detention strategy (\$2 million increase over 2005-06 funding).