

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 22 May 2006**

### IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

#### **(244) Output 1.5: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management**

Senator Ludwig asked:

What has been the cost of the Government's policy of processing asylum seekers on Nauru and Manus Island since 2001 by:

- a) Total to date.
- b) Each processing centre to date, and by year?
- c) Do these costs include those incurred by the Defence Department, Customs, and foreign aid budget?
- d) Have any payments, including those made in the form of aid, been paid to the Government of Nauru or PNG in connection with the establishment of refugee processing centres in their countries? If so –
  - i) For each payment made to date, could the department provide: 1) the department/agency responsible for the payment. 2) the recipient of the payment. 3) the value of the payment. 4) the date of the payment. 5) the reason of the payment.
  - ii) For each payment scheduled to be made in the future 1) the department/agency responsible for the payment. 2) the intended recipient of the payment. 3) the expected value of the payment. 4) the expected date of the payment. 5) the reason for the payment.
  - iii) Following the recent changes to the Australian Government's policy on the processing of asylum seekers: 1) Are any of the scheduled payments likely to be effected? If so, could the department detail how they are likely change? 2) Are any additional payments likely to be required? If so, could the department retail what new payments are likely?

*Answer:*

a) The costs of processing asylum seekers on Nauru and Manus Island from 2001 to 31 May 2006 have been \$253.5 million, including departmental costs in Australia.

b) The costs, in millions of dollars for each centre by years are contained in the following table:

| CENTRE | YEAR    |         |         |         |              |
|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------|
|        | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-31/5/06 |
| NAURU  | 48.5    | 45      | 33.5    | 34.4    | 23.7         |
| MANUS  | 29.4    | 20.6    | 6.2     | 1.8     | 2.2          |

c) No, the table above relates to costs incurred in constructing, maintaining and managing the

OPCs in Nauru, including payments to IOM and AFPPS and the cost of key infrastructure support. A bilateral development assistance program is separately managed by AusAID.

d) No payment has been made to either the Government of Nauru or the Government of PNG in connection with establishing the processing centres in either country. On Manus, some legacy projects were undertaken in consultation with the local community, often to the benefit of both parties, eg power generation; road works.