

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 26 MAY 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(35) Program : Internal Product

Senator Humphries (L&C 72) asked:

Provide an assessment of the resources required by the department to process the application of an offshore humanitarian applicant compared to those for an Irregular Maritime Arrival (IMA).

Answer:

For the financial year to date as at 31 May 2010, the direct departmental expenses attributed to output 2.1.1 Offshore Humanitarian Program – Service Delivery are \$13m. Administered costs for the Refugee and Humanitarian Passage for the financial year as at the end of May 2010 are \$11m.

As at 31 May 2010, the direct departmental expenses attributed to output 4.3.1 Offshore Asylum Seeker Management – Service Delivery for the financial year are \$70m. Administered costs for Offshore Asylum Seeker Management for the financial year as at the end of May 2010 are \$146m. The Administered costs include contract payments in relation to community and detention services, such as SERCO contract payments and regional cooperation and capacity building projects.

The following issues will inflate costs in relation to IMAs:

- the IMA costs include substantial detention, property and travel costs that are not strictly related to processing, but that are not easy to separate out from the total costs,
- there are IMAs where a significant amount of work has been performed, but a final decision has not yet been issued, and
- not counted against the IMAs is the avoided legal costs in relation to processing of asylum claims from offshore entry persons.