

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 23 MAY 2011**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

**(BE11/0035) Program : Internal Product**

Senator Cash (L&CA 22) asked:

In relation to legal expenses for IMAs, how did you get to \$26.1 million?

*Answer:*

The figure of \$26.1 million for IMAs is an estimate of legal expenses for the 2011-12 and 2012-13 financial years. It includes internal and external legal expenses.

In determining these expenses consideration was given to the:

- Projected numbers of cases expected as a result of the High Court's decision of 11 November 2010;
- Number of legal officers/administrative staff required to manage the caseload based on existing workload capacity;
- Average resolutions times for applications filed in the court and historical flow through rates of Refugee Review Tribunal decisions to judicial review;
- Complexity of the legal issues likely to arise; and
- Average costs per litigation matter in 2009-10.