

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21-22 MAY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE12/0376) Program 4.2: Onshore Detention Network

Senator Cash asked:

The department claims that it funds a number of programs that provide interpreting and translating costs for clients serviced by a number of programs, including the ASA, IAAAS and so on. What has been the cost of providing interpreting and translating services to IMAs in the 2011-12 financial year or the year to date?

Answer:

The cost of providing interpreting services to IMAs for the period 1 July 2011 to 31 May 2012 is \$49 045 885. The department used the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) National as its preferred interpreting service provider.

Translating services are not provided by TIS National. A range of translation service providers is used and these costs are absorbed by different programs and cannot be identified.