

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 1 November 2005.

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(135) Output 1.3: Enforcement of Immigration Law

Senator Nettle asked:

1. How many private charter aeroplanes has DIMIA chartered for the purpose of removals/deportations in the past year?
2. Why does DIMIA use private aeroplanes?
3. How much has been spent over the past 3 years on private aeroplane chartering?
4. What companies are contracted to perform deportations/removals?

Answer:

1. For the period 1 November 2004 to 30 October 2005, DIMIA chartered aircraft on 25 occasions to remove unlawful non-citizens to their country of origin.

2. Some removals and deportations may raise issues of timing, numbers, logistics, cost or security that make the use of a charter flight a reasonable option. This may be for the domestic and/or international leg. The practical advantages of a charter must be weighed against any additional costs. New legislative requirements for aviation security have made closed charters more operationally efficient and cost effective.

3. The costs of all chartered aircraft, including those used for internal transfers and other operational requirements, over the last three years have been:

2002-03	\$2 316 873
2003-04	\$1 147 170
2004-05	\$2 344 125

4. All charter contracts in excess of \$10 000 are reported on the Austender website in accordance with the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines.