

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 30 October 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(214) Output 1.3: Enforcement of Immigration Law

Senator Bartlett (L&CA Written) asked:

How many immigration detainees have had their debts for the cost of their detention waived in the last financial year? What amounts have they been for? Why are others not granted waivers?

Answer:

For the financial year 2005/06, 370 debt waivers were approved by the Department of Finance and Administration. The total amount of the debt was \$1,971,670.

Debt Waiver approvals are determined by the Department of Finance & Administration (Finance) delegate. DIMA provides a recommendation to Finance based on the criteria outlined in Finance Circular 2006/05 Discretionary Compensation Mechanisms.

Typically, where an applicant's request for debt waiver is not granted, it has been determined by the delegate that there is no moral obligation to waive the debt and / or the repayment of the debt would not cause undue long term financial hardship to the applicant.