

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(393) Program: Internal Product

Senator Barnett asked:

- (1) What have been the changes in staffing levels since Budget Estimates 2010?
- (2) Why have these changes occurred?
- (3) What have been the Budgetary implications?
- (4) In the case of reductions in staff numbers, how have these reductions been absorbed by the Department?
- (5) What functions these staff performed have been sacrificed and why?

Answer:

- (1) Staffing levels (headcount) for ongoing and non-ongoing rose from 6971 as at 27 May 2010 to 7184 as at 30 September 2010.
- (2) The increase in staffing levels is due to departmental requirements for processing IMAs and recruitment in areas such as service centres (for seasonal requirements e.g. student visa processing) and decreases broadly across other programs in line with planned completion of programs, completion of contracts and finalising projects.
- (3) IMA staffing is funded through quarantined funding which has yet to be finalised.
- (4) N/A.
- (5) N/A.