

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(42) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Cash (L&CA 50) asked:

Was there any cost at all to Australia as a result of the transiting?

Answer:

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) organised and paid for all travel for the refugees to the transit facilities in Romania and the Philippines. The Government undertook to reimburse these travel expenses, however no invoices have been received to date.

There has been no cost to the Australian Government for accommodation for the refugees in the centres.

Because of serious concerns about the psychological well-being of the refugees, the Department approved two psychologists from an Australian non-government organisation (who had been previously involved with the refugees during discussions on board the *Oceanic Viking*) to travel to Romania to provide additional support. They have travelled to Romania twice, from 5-8 August 2010 at a cost of \$19 607.19 and from 16-18 October 2010 for which we have not yet received an invoice.