

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 15 OCTOBER 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE12/0052) PROGRAM – Internal Product

Senator Cash (written) asked:

Litigation costs: What was the total cost to the department of defending and funding protection claims from asylum seekers who are IMA's in 2011-12? What is the budgeted cost for 2012-13?

Answer:

This question has been interpreted as requesting the department's costs of defending assessments made by independent merits reviewers before the courts.

The total internal and external litigation cost for defending IMR matters before the courts in 2011-12 was \$6.907 million.

The department was allocated \$26.1 million for the 2011-12 and 2012-13 financial years for "internal and external legal expenses associated with anticipated IMR litigation.

In the event that this question is about the costs of immigration advice and application assistance (IAAAS) costs that are incurred in assisting clients in processes that occur before litigation may commence, these costs appear in both the department's annual reports and in response to Questions on Notice concerning IAAAS.