

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 15 October 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE12/0257) PROGRAM – 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Di Natale (written) asked:

Whole of portfolio - Relating to the Joint Standing Committee on Migration, 'The Migration Treatment of Disability: Enabling Australia' Report (tabled 21 July 2010) and its recommendations: What extra information has been made available to visa applicants as part of the Australian Government's commitment to 'make significant systems changes focused on improving the information available to applicants and raising transparency'?

Answer:

The Department has implemented many changes to its systems and client information to improve the transparency of the health assessment process and associated costs since the release of the JSCM Report. Consequently, all endorsed Notes for Guidance to assist Medical Officers of the Commonwealth in calculating health and allied costs for visa applicants have been uploaded to LEGEND.com, which is an electronic database of migration legislation and policy documents available to the public on a subscription basis.

The Department has also made significant system changes to allow Medical Officers of the Commonwealth to record further information about a health case in a more structured way, which includes a detailed breakdown of services required and associated costs.