

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 November 2013

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE13/0068) PROGRAMME – Internal Product

Senator Singh (L&CA 122-123) asked:

Mr Bowles: In all of the states they will move in with the Department of Social Services or whatever they call their state or territory offices. They will move in with those. The people who sit in Belconnen at the moment will move to wherever the relevant office is for social services. I do not specifically know exactly where everyone is going to go, but the move at this stage is proposed for around February.

Senator SINGH: So there will be a cost with the move?

Mr Bowles: Yes, there will be a cost.

Senator SINGH: I think you told me to go to DSS for the cost.

Mr Bowles: DSS will be the major—

Senator SINGH: But there will be a cost to your department as well, so I think you could take that on notice.

Mr Bowles: I would not really describe it as costs. We have to transfer the budget of salaries, supplier costs and all of those things to the new department. We can come back to you, on notice, on what that might be and the transfer arrangements. But the actual movement is not a big cost to us. It is a big a cost for a receiving agency. I am talking about costs versus budget transfers.

Answer:

Staff remain physically located at the Department of Immigration and Border Protection premises and the move to new accommodation with Department of Social Services will not be undertaken until next year, as such we are not able to provide a cost.