

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 20 OCTOBER 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE14/316) PROGRAMME –

Senator Ludwig (L&CA 4) asked:

Senator LUDWIG: We are in outcome 3, as I understand the program. In the budget for the Department of Immigration and Border Protection the government will provide \$149.9 million over five years to fund a range of reforms to compliance, removal and network management arrangements for illegal maritime arrivals who have remained in Australia. Is there a breakdown of how that money is going to be spent? I am seeking a little bit more detail than a lump sum.

Mr Pezzullo: There was an element of the question which I slightly missed, which was the numerical amount—there was a funding provision—

Senator LUDWIG: \$149.9 million.

Mr Cormack: In terms of the precise breakdown of that measure, I will have to take that one on notice. I apologise for not having that with me here now. I will try to get it for you before the end of the session.

Senator LUDWIG: Alright. What I was particularly interested in is whether or not you have broken it down and decided to put X amount to each type of activity or whether it is a more general fund that you will then develop a strategy around and then go forward with. If it is the latter, then I was asking for a little bit more detail about what you have fleshed out at this point in time.

Mr Cormack: I will take that on notice.

...

Mr Pezzullo: As the measure is described, it has a number of components, which I think you read out—are you asking whether there are moneys attributed to each of the components or is it a more global fund, which as it were is adjusted according to circumstances? Is that the burden of the question?

Senator LUDWIG: That is the nub of the question. If it is broken down by each issue mentioned then the follow-up question really is: has there been any work started on that or is it going into those individual buckets of money—in other words are there new programs that are going to be developed as a consequence? We will take one as an example: a range of reforms to compliance—what are they and how many, because a range can be more than one. Is there one, two or three, is there going to be money subscribed to each of those compliance programs or is it going to be new programs and the section dealing with compliance gets the money and then comes up with innovative ways to pursue compliance? That might give you an idea and I can always follow it up.

Mr Pezzullo: We are very clear on the thrust of your question and we will try to answer as much of it as we can within the time available, otherwise we will formally take it on notice.

Answer:

The funding of \$149.9m was provided to include the Illegal Maritime Arrival (IMA) caseload in the already established status resolution framework used to manage and resolve non-IMA cases. Specifically, it will be used to fund alternate exit pathways for asylum seekers found not to be owed Australia's protection. The measure was based on a combination of planned activities including:

- Managing the status resolution process and the different pathways a failed asylum seeker may take (including re-detention).
- Actively managing IMAs generally in the community to ensure their full cooperation in resolving their immigration status.
- Enhancing departmental resourcing to bolster compliance in the field and to work on activities associated with the negative caseload. This includes support services which will be reserved for complex cases where there are demonstrated vulnerabilities to mitigate those risks to the individuals concerned, and to contribute to progressing cases to outcomes.
- Funding for removal and returns activities for the negative IMA legacy caseload.