

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2005-2006 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: All
Output Group: All

DEST Question No. E020_06

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

- (a) You have said that there is no cap on the overall cost of a staff member's relocation costs. Is this correct?
- (b) But each of the components of the entitlements has an upper dollar amount – is that correct?
- (c) Doesn't that mean the total amount is capped at the added value of all the component upper amounts?
- (d) If not, can you confirm that there is no upper limit to what an employee of the department can claim as relocation costs?
- (e) Is that normal policy and practice in the APS?

Answer:

Relocation costs

- (a) Yes.
- (b) While various components of relocation assistance have upper dollar amounts and/or maximum time limits, some components such as stamp duty (which are determined by each State or Territory) and removal costs are based on reimbursement of actual costs. Therefore there is no cap on the overall cost of a persons relocation entitlements.
- (c) No.
- (d) There is no upper limit to what an employee of the Department can claim in relocation costs. The Department's Certified Agreement states that " the move will not result in any unreasonable personal expense or monetary gain". Entitlements on relocation are based on the person's living circumstances at the pre-transfer locality and their intended living circumstances at the transfer locality. A principle of 'like' to 'like' is used to assess entitlements.
- (e) This is general practice in the APS based on the principle of no loss or gain to the individual.