

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 24 FEBRUARY 2009

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(4) Output 1.1: Migration and Temporary Entry

Senator Barnett (L&CA 23) asked:

In relation to Mr Moeller's son, provide the medical costs determined by the medical officer.

Answer:

Medical Officers of the Commonwealth ((MOC) assess visa applicants against the three criteria which comprise the health requirement:

- public health risk
- potential cost to the Australian community
- likely prejudice of access to services for the Australian community.

An applicant for a permanent visa does not meet the health requirement on cost grounds if health care and community costs for the next 5 years are estimated to be significant, that is, more than \$21,000. The estimates are based on the expected utilisation of health and community services by a hypothetical Australian resident with the same form and level of condition as the individual applicant.

Costs of health and community services for Lukas Moeller were estimated by a Medical Officer of the Commonwealth (MOC) to be in excess of \$21,000. Once the costs were estimated to be in excess of \$21,000, the MOC was not required to further develop the estimate so the full cost was not determined. The Federal Court has held that MOCs are not required to quantify costs, rather that they only need to determine whether they were significant.