

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 FEBRUARY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(34) Program: Internal Product

Senator Cash asked:

Appropriations Bill 3, 2010-2011 shows a cut in budget of \$6.861 million. Which programs will have funding reduced to absorb this cut?

Answer:

There will be no reduction in funding to programs as a result of this expenditure reduction.

The reduction of \$6.861m in Outcome 6 for 2010-11 is due to a decrease in the estimated number of citizenship decisions resulting from the requirement introduced on 1 July 2010 whereby applicants need to have been residents for four years to qualify for citizenship rather than the previous two year requirement.

The fall in activity is expected to be temporary and growth is anticipated from 2011-12 onwards.

The Parliamentary Secretary for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, Senator the Hon Kate Lundy, recently wrote to the Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Citizenship and Settlement, the Hon Teresa Gambaro MP, confirming there would be no reduction to programs. A copy of Senator Lundy's letter is attached.