

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE12/0149) Program Internal Product: Internal Product

Senator Humphries asked:

What specific strategies will the department/agency adopt to ensure continued operation within budget?

Answer:

DIAC:

As part of the 2012-13 departmental business planning process, the department has instigated active management in several areas with the intention of mitigating some of the financial pressures for 2012-13 and forward years.

These actions include:

National Office (NatO) Accommodation Realignment Project - Once implemented the department's divisions will be better co-located and this will result in improved operational efficiencies and enable better utilisation of workpoints. Work is well advanced and will address previously projected cost growth and provide efficiencies from co-location of key functions.

ICT Initiatives – The department is examining a number of ways to reduce ICT cost pressures. Two high priority measures are contractor to ongoing staff conversion and market testing of DIAC's enterprise computing services.

DIAC is also undertaking a detailed business planning process to align available resources to business priorities for the 2012-13 financial year.

MRT-RRT:

The Migration Review Tribunal-Refugee Review Tribunal will operate within the budget funding by focusing on improved management of operating costs (mainly staff and related costs, communications and processing costs) and in the medium term will increase the use of technology for communications and administration of lodgements.