

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

AE12/0280) Program 2.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Cash asked:

What is the difference in the amount of revenue generated by the use of electronic lodgement and paper lodgement of visa applications?

Answer:

There is currently no difference in the amount of revenue generated by the use of electronic lodgement and paper lodgement of visa applications.

As part of Visa Pricing Transformation the department will from July 2013 introduce a surcharge for lodgement of paper applications where clients have access to an online application lodgement process. The difference in revenue generated will depend on the number of application sub classes for which an online lodgement process is available, the number of applications being made and the take up rate by clients over time of the online lodgement process. Internet availability also differs across the globe and will change over time. Given the factors which will impact revenue, it is difficult to accurately estimate the revenue to be generated. For Budget estimates purposes, the best estimate was that the revenue from introducing this initiative could be as high as \$48m by end of June 2016 subject to the factors outlined above.