

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES - 25 FEBRUARY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE14/307) PROGRAMME – Internal Product

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

Who is currently providing the translating and interpreting services (i.e. is this a contracted service provided to the Department or does the Department employ translators and interpreters directly)?

How many are currently engaged?

Of that number, how many are working in onshore/offshore facilities?

Answer:

The Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) has been retained within the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP). TIS manages a group of individual contractors who deliver interpreting services to the Department, federal and state government organisations, private sector companies and non-government organisations. TIS has over 2600 contracted interpreters who provide interpreting services in more than 160 languages and dialects. Of these, about 250 interpreters are supplied by TIS to DIBP's immigration detention network, including onshore and offshore facilities, at any given time.

TIS manages a contract for the provision of Free Translation Services for eligible permanent residents and Australian citizens on behalf of DSS. The translation services are being delivered by VITS Languagelink (Victorian Interpreting and Translating Services), a supplier selected through a competitive tender process.