

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 22 May 2007**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

**(127) Output 2.1: Settlement Services**

Senator Hurley (L&CA 48) asked:

Provide details around the split of funding for on-site and telephone interpreting in the fee-free area.

*Answer:*

The Budget allocation for free on-site and telephone interpreting and translating in 2006-07 is \$10,846,000.

This Budget is not allocated between on-site and telephone interpreting and translating as these services are demand driven.

A daily limit per state and territory does apply to on-site interpreting due to the resource-intensive nature of on-site interpreting. This limit maximises the availability of interpreters, particularly in languages in short supply. There is capacity to over-ride this limit in extenuating circumstances. There are no limitations for telephone interpreting.