

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21-22 May 2007

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(142) Output: Internal Product

Senator Bartlett asked:

- (1) In the last year, how much has been paid by the Immigration Department to asylum seekers as compensation for mental and physical health problems resulting from their long-term detention?
- (2) Is there funding set aside to cover future compensation claims?

Answer:

- (1) For the period 1 July 2006 to 8 June 2007 the Department paid out \$40,000 in compensation in response to one personal injuries claim by an asylum seeker. The claim arose from an alleged assault by the detention services provider whilst in immigration detention.
- (2) The Department obtains insurance and risk management services through Comcover, the Australian Government's general insurance fund. The Department calls on this insurance to cover the payment of compensation and associated legal costs arising out of most common law claims for compensation excluding workers compensation claims which falls within the Australian Government's Comcare program.