

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 28 MAY 2008

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(10) Output: Internal Product

Senator Ellison (L&CA 21-22) asked:

In relation to the measures such as Australia-Japan free trade, Australia-China free trade, the values statement and other areas.

(1) Are the costs being absorbed in those areas?

(2) How will those costs be absorbed?

(answer to be provided even if it is beyond the appointed date for return of answers)

Answer:

(1)-(2) The costs will in the first instance be absorbed in the areas responsible for the measures by reprioritising other workloads. The capacity for the responsible area to absorb the cost will depend to a large extent on the financial impact – for example, the savings from the Australia-China free trade (\$161,000 in 2008-09) and Australia-Japan free trade (\$136,000 in 2008-09) are to be absorbed by the responsible division.

Where the cost to implement the measure is beyond the capacity of the responsible area the relevant division head may reassess the implementation strategy so as to achieve the same outcome but at a lesser cost.

If after reassessing priorities and reassessing the implementation strategy the responsible area is still inadequately funded to implement the measure the responsible division head may seek additional funding from the Department's executive. In effect, the Department's executive reassess priorities on a department wide basis to ensure the measure is implemented as intended by Government.