

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 28-29 MAY 2008

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(58) Output 1.2: Refugee and Humanitarian Entry and Stay

Senator Ellison (L&CA 15) asked:

What are the repayment terms for the loan provided by IOM to SHP entrants for travel costs?

Answer:

Under its Refugee Travel Loan Fund, IOM provides interest free loans of up to 65 percent of the cost of airfares and will normally lend up to \$4000. Loan recipients are normally required to pay back this amount within 15 months and repayments are usually between \$100-350 per month, depending upon the loan amount. Where the loan recipient is in receipt of benefits, the payments are deducted from welfare payments through the Centrepay facility.

IOM is responsive to individual need in administrating these terms. IOM will lend more than \$4000 where airfare costs exceed that amount, and longer payment periods can be negotiated. The minimum loan repayment is \$50 per month.