

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 26 - 27 MAY 2010

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

#### (127) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Hanson-Young asked:

- (1) Identify the amount of funding to IOM broken down by project, outcome and detention or transit facility.
- (2) Explain how the government proposes to maintain oversight and accountability for the way in which IOM spends Australian funds to provide care and support to irregular migrants, and in particular, for ensuring protection of the human rights of asylum seekers and refugees.

*Answer:*

(1)

#### Regional Cooperation Arrangements

Year	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Administered Funding	7.907m	8.071m	5.138m	5.241m	5.398m
Departmental Funding	0.138m	0.139m	0	0	0

#### IOM Outreach Offices

Year	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Administered Funding	2.509m	0.978m	2.509m	0.500	n/a
Departmental Funding	Nil	nil	nil	nil	n/a

#### Enhanced Detention Capability

Year	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Administered Funding	5m	3.031m	17.802m	n/a	n/a
Departmental Funding	0	0.1m	0.202m	0.051m	n/a

#### Technical Assistance

Year	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Administered Funding	4.877m	6.675m	1.507m	0.291m	0.090m
Departmental Funding	0	1.036m	0.257m	0.163m	0.164m

(2) The Australian government has oversight and accountability over IOM's use of Australian funds to provide care and support to irregular migrants through two mechanisms.

### ***IOM Compliance and Auditing***

As Australia is a Member State of IOM, relevant government agencies including DIAC receive audited copies of IOM's expenditure. Auditing is conducted by an objective, independent body selected by Member States for a fixed term. With Australia's support, IOM is now transitioning to full compliance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS). Using an international standard such as IPSAS allows a higher degree of confidence in IOM's use of finances.

### ***DIAC Compliance and Auditing***

DIAC funding agreements with IOM contain a clause which requires IOM to keep all financial records relating to the funded activity. Funding agreements also stipulate the preparation of financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (AAS), and the audit of those records in accordance with AAS.

In addition, IOM must provide the Department with audited, detailed statements and financial certificates declaring that all funding received was expended for the purpose of the stated activity and in accordance with the funding agreement. It is a further stipulation that these audits are carried out by an approved auditor and comply with AAS.

### **Ensuring protection of human rights for asylum seekers and refugees**

IOM is widely recognised as the premier agency for migration law issues and, in conjunction with UNHCR, has played a role in policy development to strengthen the international frameworks protecting the rights of migrants, including asylum seekers and refugees. As a Member State, Australia has approved IOM's project management procedures which include a quality control to ensure compliance with international humanitarian standards. The quality control was designed to ensure that activities conducted by IOM conformed with its Constitution and Strategy which includes focus on the 'humane and orderly management of migration' and 'the development and delivery of programmes, studies and technical expertise on combating migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons, in particular women and children, in a manner consistent with international law.'

This is monitored through IOM's internal quality assurance procedures which ensure compliance with the control, and through Australia's ability to conduct performance audits on activities implemented by IOM.