

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27 MAY 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(98) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Barnett (L&C 71) asked:

What is the estimated additional cost in delaying the processing and holding of the Afghani and Sri Lankan irregular maritime arrivals that we currently have?

Answer

In the 2010-11 Budget, there was no budget measure costed for this decision as it was agreed to be handled through the no win, no loss funding arrangements. To calculate the estimated additional costs of delaying the processing would require too many complex assumptions regarding arrival rates, application processing times, accommodation costs and the individual circumstances of each irregular maritime arrival.

To develop accurate and meaningful estimates on the additional costs would result in questionable information and require an unreasonable diversion of resources, which can not be diverted from other priorities at this time.