

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 23 MAY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE11/0185) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Cash (L&CA 49) asked:

In relation to those people who did travel to East Timor, what were their instructions from the government, what was the outcome of the discussions and what was the cost of the continuing negotiations?

Answer:

No departmental officials travelled to East Timor in that period. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade advise that Australia's Ambassador and other Embassy officials continued to discuss the proposal with senior East Timorese government interlocutors.