

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 23 MAY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE11/0186) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Cash (L&CA 49) asked:

Since Estimates February 2011 to the announcement by the minister, what work was carried out on East Timor to actually progress the processing centre and what was the cost?

Answer:

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. Discussions also took place between senior Australian and East Timorese ministers during this time. There were no specific costs.