

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 21-22 MAY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE12/0396) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Hanson-Young (L&CA 30) asked:

With regard to IAAAS costs, has there been a change to the way the cost to individual clients is calculated?

Answer:

Yes.

The commencement, on 24 March 2012, of a single protection visa process for all protection visa applicants has changed the scope and nature of services being provided by IAAAS providers to Irregular Maritime Arrivals (IMAs).

A model for the new IAAAS services already existed in the IAAAS services provided to non-IMA protection visa applicants. Deeds of Variation have been negotiated with the ten IAAAS providers providing services to IMAs to incorporate this model into their IMA services.

The key change to the pricing structure has been the introduction of a single price for services delivered to multiple applicants in a single family unit. This is expected to deliver savings of between 10% and 30% on the cost of IAAAS services per family unit compared with the previous fee per client arrangements.

Actual costs per client in the statutory protection visa framework will depend on a range of factors including the proportion of clients refused at the primary stage who seek merits review, the proportion of merits review applications remitted to the department, and the extent of any remittals from a court to a merits tribunal.