

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

### **BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27-28 May 2013**

#### **IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO**

#### **(BE13/0097) PROGRAM – 4.1: Visa Compliance and Status Resolution**

Senator Furner (L&CA 28-29) asked:

Senator FURNER: Very good. I take you to page 47. One of the objectives of program 4.1 is to detect and locate persons who have no lawful authority to be in Australia. What actions does DIAC take? What methods does the department pursue to detect and locate such persons?

Dr Southern: That is a combination of our compliance field actions and our compliance status resolution service desks in each of our state and territory offices. What our key compliance statistics are showing us, and as the secretary was talking about yesterday I think, is that we had quite substantial numbers of locations—around 9,474 was the number we were looking at. That is a combination of people, including those who voluntarily come to us. They may have overstayed their visa and are seeking to resolve their status. That is about 80 per cent, and about 20 per cent are where we find people in the community through compliance action.

Senator FURNER: What has been the cost to the department for the financial year 2012-13 in that area?

Mr Callanan: We would have to get a breakdown of that on notice.

Senator FURNER: I would like to know what you budgeted for, the costs, in the 2013-14 financial year as well.

*Answer:*

The Department's compliance field activity is enabled by a range of functions, so it is not possible to separately cost field activity. Other officers are engaged in analysis, research and planning of field visits, identity work, staffing counters responding to clients who present as unlawful non-citizens and managing those clients to resolution of their immigration status.

The cost of compliance field and related compliance teams was \$25,000,814 for the financial year to 31 May 2013.

As at 31 May 2013 the budget for compliance field was still being finalised.