

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 30 October 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(85) Output 1.1: Migration and Temporary Entry

Senator Crossin asked:

The Age quoted a DIMA spokesperson on 28/9/06 as stating that “Fees charged (to applicants) vary from \$500 to about \$27,000”. Furthermore, that the details of these fees are collected by the Department and included in the applicant’s case report.’

1. Is the Department aware of these charges and is it investigating the legality of such charges,
2. Did the case report for Mr Zhang who was sponsored by Aprint in Melbourne include the \$10,000 he paid to a China agent and the \$10,000 he paid to his sponsor for a \$38,000 a year job?
3. Has the Department initiated an education campaign for employers regarding this (Age 28/9/06)? Has there been any costing regarding any campaign in this area? If so what is this amount?

Answer:

1. The Department is aware of some of these charges and is continuing investigations both in Australia and offshore.
2. During the investigation, in a written statement provided to the Department Mr Zhang said that he paid a ‘sponsorship/solicitors fee’ of \$20,000 to the employer.
3. DIMA’s industry outreach officers have been undertaking such work for around 18 months. In addition, DIMA in conjunction with relevant Commonwealth and State agencies, is in the process of initiating a more extensive education campaign that covers all sponsor undertakings.