

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 OCTOBER 2008

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(75) Output 1.3: Border Security

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

- (1) Please provide a breakdown of the number of foreign officials the Department of Immigration sponsor to undertake tertiary study in document examination along with the officials' country of origin?
- (2) What proportion of the costs associated with the training of foreign officers are met by the country of origin and what proportion are met by the Australian Government?

Answer:

- (1) In the period between February 2006 and 30 June 2008 the Department has sponsored the enrolment of 2 foreign officials from Indonesia, 4 foreign officials from the Philippines and 2 foreign officials from the People's Republic of China to undertake studies by distance learning in the Diploma of Forensic Document Examination program. One official from the Philippines discontinued the program in 2007 after accepting a transfer within the Ministry.
- (2) The Department met the direct costs comprising the foreign officials' enrolment fees, the cost of their reference materials, the cost for their travel to and stay in Australia for participation in workshops and in supervised laboratory work placements. The Department met the indirect costs comprising the in-country training and mentoring of the foreign officials through relevant modules of the program. The country of origin met the employer-related costs including the salary of the foreign officials.

It is not possible to quantify the range of costs in terms of the proportion met by the Department and the proportion met by the country of origin.