

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(121) Program: Internal Product

Senator Abetz asked:

(1) Are there any programs within the portfolio and connected agencies of Immigration that are likely to exceed their current budget? If yes, please provide details (for example a demand driven program that has had higher than anticipated take up).

(2) Are there any programs within Immigration that are likely to under spend their current budget? If yes, please provide details (for example a demand driven program that has had higher than anticipated take up).

Answer:

(1) In Outcome 4, program 4.3 is likely to exceed the current budget to accommodate the increase in Irregular Maritime Arrivals (IMAs). DIAC has an agreement with the Department of Finance and Deregulation (Finance) that it is provided with quarantined funding for certain demand driven activities, which are determined to be outside its control, on a “no win/no loss” basis. The management of IMAs falls into this category.

In Outcome 5, it is likely that the settlement and unaccompanied humanitarian minors programs will exceed the current budget. The department is revising its estimates in light of the known increase in demand and cost drivers.

(2) It is too early in the year to identify any program underspends at this stage.