

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(1) Program 1.1: Office of the MARA

Senator Cash (L&CA 10) asked:

(1) What is the cost to migration agents of the department's policy and procedures product, Legend?

(2) Could you also compare that with the cost of access to the procedures advice manuals issued by the Australian Taxation Office.

Answer:

(1) LEGEND is an electronic database of migration and citizenship legislation and policy documents. It is a consolidated reference resource which includes the *Migration Act 1958* and associated *Migration Regulations 1994*, the *Citizenship Act 2007* and associated Citizenship Regulations and other historic legislation. It also includes policy and procedural instructions that are written to be read with the legislation, such as the Procedures Advice Manuals, Migration Series Instructions and Australian Citizenship Instructions. LEGEND is used internally by staff within the Department.

LEGENDcom is the commercial version of LEGEND and is available to members of the public on a subscription basis. It provides subscribers, including Registered Migration Agents, the same information that is available to departmental staff. LEGENDcom also contains fillable versions of current departmental forms that can be completed by typing directly into the fields and saved.

There are three different subscription types for LEGENDcom. Subscriptions are available for a twelve month period, payable in advance.

Full - This subscription is for customers who wish to access the legislation, policy and fillable forms. A secondary licence is required where more than one person will need concurrent access to LEGENDcom.

\$1340 per annum plus \$580 per secondary licence

Non profit - Provides the same access as a Full subscription at a reduced cost.

\$700 per annum plus \$580 per secondary licence.

Limited - This subscription is for customers who do not require the fillable forms. This version of the product contains legislation and policy only. Secondary licences cannot be purchased with this subscription.

\$1230 per annum.

Migration agents operating on a not-for-profit or non-commercial basis may be eligible for the lower cost 'Non Profit' subscription type.

A free Library subscription is also available but is limited to those libraries listed as a participating deposit library on the Australian Government Information Management Office (AGIMO) Website. This list includes State and Territory public libraries, the National Library and university libraries.

LEGENDcom subscribers can also purchase a DVD version at a cost of \$280 per annum. The DVD is intended to enable access to LEGENDcom when a person is travelling and may not have Internet access. The DVD version is updated three times a year (broadly in line with the Department's major legislative change cycles).

Migration agents and others may also purchase the materials contained in LEGEND from LexisNexis Australia in the form of the product "Australian Immigration Law". This product includes migration legislation and policy, as well as additional historical information and commentary. LexisNexis advise that the cost of this product is \$2697.09 for one online use and \$2099.97 for a hard copy, plus a charge per update for any updates issued during the remainder of the subscription year.

(2) DIAC's Procedures Advice Manual (PAM) is primarily a companion to the *Migration Act 1958* and *Migration Regulations 1994* and associated administrative processes. The main purpose of the PAM is to annotate migration legislation by providing both policy and procedural instruction relevant to the legislation. The PAM is written to be read with the legislation.

Everything in the PAM is departmental policy/procedural instruction, with status as official departmental instructions within the Department's centralised departmental instructions system (CDIS).

The Acting Commissioner of Taxation has advised that the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) prepares a variety of documents, both in hard-copy and online, to assist tax professionals, tax agents and taxpayers.

The ATO does not charge a fee for any hard-copy publication. Visitors to www.ato.gov.au are able to print online documents at their own expense.