

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

#### **(347) Program 4.1: Visa Compliance and Status Resolution**

Senator Cash asked:

(1) What is the current budget for the conduct of compliance activities in the department?

(a) What activities are undertaken?

(b) Can you provide full details?

(2) How does the budget this year compare with the previous five financial years?

*Answer:*

(1) Compliance activities within the Department are funded through output 4.1.1 Detection Onshore which is part of Program 4.1 Visa Compliance and Status Resolution. The 2010-11 Departmental appropriation budget for Detection Onshore is \$64.4 million and the Administered appropriation budget is \$8.7m.

(a) Under Program 4.1, the Department works to:

- maintain the current high levels of voluntary compliance with Australia's migration laws;
- detect and respond effectively and early to non-compliance by non-citizens and employers, ensuring the least costly, least intrusive and least risky approach is used to re-establish compliance;
- work with unlawful non-citizens and bridging visa holders to achieve timely and appropriate immigration status resolution outcomes;
- manage the significant risks associated with serious breaches of Australian law by visa holders or unlawful non-citizens; and
- provide support to suspected victims of people trafficking through the People Trafficking Visa Framework.

The Department seeks to maintain the high levels of compliance with Australia's immigration system through a broad range of strategies including:

- a layered approach to border management, with a range of screening mechanisms which aim to prevent the entry of people who may pose a security, criminal or health risk, or fail to comply with their visa conditions;
- ensuring people understand their obligations under Australia's migration and other laws;
- providing assistance to help people comply; and
- encouraging those who may not have been complying to voluntarily approach the Department to resolve their immigration status.

(b) Further details of the compliance activities can be found in the Annual Report 2009-10 (pages 160 -176).

(2) A comparison between the current financial year’s budget estimate and the previous five financial year’s budgets for Detection Onshore are set out below.

	2005-06 \$ million	2006-07 \$ million	2007-08 \$ million	2008-09 \$ million	2009-10 \$ million	2010-11 \$ million
Departmental	42.2	70.2	74.2	76.6	71.9	64.4
Administered	0	0	0	0	7.2	8.7

The decrease in the Departmental appropriation budget from 2009-10 to 2010-11 primarily relates to a number of Systems for People measures that ceased in 2009-10 and the removal of funding for depreciation expenses from 2010-11 onwards.