

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 17 OCTOBER 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE11/0065) Program : Internal Product

Senator Cash asked:

Litigation cost: What has been paid out by the Department in litigation costs to date? How much has the Department paid in compensation to third parties and what for?

Answer:

For the period 1 July 2011 to 30 September 2011, \$4.320 million was spent on external litigation costs.

We understand 'third party' to mean a party named in litigation as a result of a cross-claim. In the Department's litigation, ordinarily the Department or the Commonwealth is claiming a contribution from the third party, for example a detention service provider, towards a compensation payment to the plaintiff. According to the Department's records for the financial year 2010 - 2011 and this financial year to 30 September 2011 there has been no compensation payment made to a third party.