

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 November 2013

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE13/0411) PROGRAM – Internal Product

Senator the Hon Lisa Singh (L&CA 40-41) asked:

Senator SINGH: Mr Bowles, you said in your opening address what is very well known now, that settlement and multicultural affairs, as well as the Adult Migrant English Program functions, have all transferred to other departments, the former being to the Department of Social Services and the latter to the Department of Industry. Why was that decision taken?

[...]

Senator SINGH: Minister, can you answer that question?

Senator Cash: Thank you, Senator Singh. The coalition brought together immigration and border protection under one department because policy and operations in our case go hand in hand. In relation to the department of multicultural and ethnic affairs, that has been transferred to the Department of Social Services. We believe that it is a best-fit place there because it is a services department and most of the services are provided by the Department of Social Services. In relation to the Adult Migrant English Program, there is already a program, I understand, in relation to the Department of Industry and it was a best-fit practice there. If I can provide you with further information I will, and I will take the question on notice.

Answer:

The Administration Arrangements Order of 18 September 2013 provide full details of all departmental matters of responsibility. These are publicly available on the internet site of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.