

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

### **ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 21 FEBRUARY 2011**

#### **IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO**

##### **(194) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management**

Senator Cash asked:

In answer to question 290 attached, the Department stated that it would pay for the costs of clients in residence determination and further that the costs were comparable with maintaining a person in immigration detention facilities. What are the costs of clients in residence determination and please provide a comparison to a person in immigration detention facilities?

*Answer:*

It is too early in the program to provide meaningful estimates. Since the expansion of the program was announced on 18 October 2010, the Department and the program's lead service provider, the Australian Red Cross, have been actively ramping up the program. Only after the program is operating at full capacity and has been running for a reasonable period of time can meaningful cost estimates be provided. It is important that any comparisons be undertaken with meaningful data.