

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 FEBRUARY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(288) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash asked:

- (a) How many Irregular Maritime Arrivals (IMAs) has the department budgeted for in 2010-11?
- (b) How many were budgeted for in 2009-10?
- (c) What was the final number of arrivals in that period?
- (d) What was the final cost to the budget of onshore detention facilities in 2009-10?
- (e) What is the budget for 2010-11?

Answer:

(a) The Portfolio Additional Estimates Statement include an estimate for the 2010-11 financial year of 6,629 IMA arrivals and an average occupancy across the detention network of 7741.

(b) In the 2009-10 financial year DIAC's last published estimate was an amount to cover an estimated 4500 arrivals. DIAC is funded on a 'no win/no loss' basis for IMAs and therefore the actual costs of operations matched the final appropriation funding provided.

The estimate of the number of arrivals is a factor but not the only key driver in estimating costs. Other variables taken into consideration when deriving the estimate of costs include:

- Length of stay;
- Where the client is detained and the costs associated with that facility;
- Health issues and therefore the health care required;
- The need for interpreters;
- Escort costs;
- Transport costs;
- Costs associated with any appeals;
- Security costs/issues;
- Immigration Advice & Application Assistance Scheme (IAAAS) costs; and
- Red Cross and Life Without Barriers costs.

(c) In the 2009-10 financial year the total IMAs were 5327.

(d) In the 2009-10 financial year the operational cost of onshore detention facilities in respect of IMAs was \$46.2 million, excluding depreciation and capital expenditure.

(e) The estimate for the 2010-11 financial year for the operational costs of onshore detention facilities for IMAs is \$365.0 million, excluding depreciation and capital expenditure.