

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 21 FEBRUARY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(317) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash asked:

In the current Financial Year to date, how many charter aircraft flights were procured by the Department to support the processing of IMAs on Christmas Island? What was the cost of charter flights to carry departmental staff and provisions to and from the Island? What was the cost of transporting asylum seekers between the Island and the mainland and back again? What was the sum total cost of these charter flights above? What was the average cost of these charter flights above?

Answer

a. From 1 July 2010 to 21 February 2011, 44 charters were procured by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship to support the processing of irregular maritime arrivals on Christmas Island. Individual charters are used for a variety of purposes and as such costs cannot be allocated as requested above. In summary these charters carried a total of 884 people to Christmas Island and 3712 people off Christmas Island, including Government officials, irregular maritime arrival clients, other agency staff and freight as required.

b. The sum total of these charters was \$5 841 675. The average cost per charter was \$132 765.