

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE12/0342) Program 4.2: Onshore Detention Network

Senator Cash asked:

Will Christmas Island detention centre remain open? What sort of numbers is the department budgeting to accommodate there? If it is kept open and no-one is detained there, what are the anticipated annually operating costs?

Answer:

There are currently no plans to close immigration detention facilities on Christmas Island. Consistent with existing arrangements, Irregular Maritime Arrivals will generally continue to be taken to Christmas Island for initial processing. The number of people accommodated on Christmas Island will be determined by the number of arrivals.

DIAC has not undertaken any costing exercise associated with operating the centre without clients.