

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE12/0348) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash asked:

What has been the cost of operating Christmas Island detention facilities in the year to date? Please provide a breakdown of those costs. How many asylum seekers are currently detained there? How many have been released on a bridging visa; into community detention or given a permanent visa?

Answer:

Financial figures are for the 1 July 2011 to 31 Jan 2012 period.

| Christmas Island | Actual (\$) |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Aircraft Charter Freight and Travel | 17,518,157 |
| DIAC staff costs and allowances | 3,186,892 |
| Interpreting Services | 7,974,426 |
| IT and Communications | 2,026,934 |
| Miscellaneous | 666,497 |
| Motor Vehicle Expenses | 361,618 |
| Property | 7,458,701 |
| Staff salaries | 6,498,721 |
| Client Accommodation Leasing | 4,809,053 |
| Detention Services | 67,094,107 |
| Health services | 15,796,656 |
| IAAAS | 4,419,415 |
| IOM / Australian Red Cross | 210,269 |
| Total Cost | 138,021,446 |

According to DIAC operational data, as at cob 13 February 2012:

- There were 703 Irregular Maritime Arrivals (IMAs) being accommodated on Christmas Island.

According to DIAC operational data, from 10 February 2011 to cob 13 February 2012:

- 105 IMAs were placed into community detention on the Australian mainland from Christmas Island;
- 483 IMAs were released on protection visas from Christmas Island; and
- Six IMAs had been released from Christmas Island immigration detention facilities on a bridging visa.