

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE12/0422) Program 4.2: Onshore Detention Network

Senator Cash asked:

Given the change in policy to onshore release of asylum seekers has the Department prepared plans for the closure of detention centres? If so, which ones will be closed and when? How many detention places will the department keep open for new arrivals? At what projected cost?

Answer:

On 5 April 2011, the Minister announced the establishment of a temporary six month immigration detention facility at Pontville, Tasmania. The Government closed this facility in March 2012 as planned.

At this time the capacity of the immigration detention network is appropriate for current and anticipated needs and there are no plans to close other immigration detention facilities. Accommodation capacity is continuously monitored and adjustments will be made as required.

The operational costs for Asylum seeker management are a component of the estimate provided on page 50 of DIAC's Additional Estimates Statements – Community and Detention Services for 2011-12 which is \$780 million, less depreciation of \$27 million (see page 44 of DIAC's Additional Estimates Statements), giving a total of \$753 million.