

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE12/0425) Program 4.3: Offshore asylum seeker management

Senator Cash asked:

Senate Estimates Answer to Question SE11/0320 [Oct estimates] stated the Department had undertaken “recruitment of additional staff to support the increase in client numbers”. Provide a breakdown of the number of additional staff employed, at what cost and in what capacity? What is the ratio of case worker to person in community detention?

Answer:

Recruitment of additional staff to support the increase in client numbers is undertaken by the service providers contracted by the Department to provide client care and welfare while in community detention.

Staffing numbers and associated costs are informed by the numbers and composition of clients who are residing in community detention, and by agreed caseworker to client ratios based on vulnerability and need, as follows:

- for unaccompanied minors, one caseworker to five clients (1:5);
- for single adult males, one caseworker to eight to ten clients (1:8-10) depending upon the property configuration, and
- for all other clients, one to 18 (1:18).