

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 11 February 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE13/0016) PROGRAM – Internal Product

Senator Cash (L&CA 21) asked:

What has been the total blowout in budgeted costs for asylum seeker management from November 2007 to date for the department?

Answer:

Actual costs in respect of the care and management of Irregular Maritime Arrivals for the financial years 2007-08 to 2012-13 are summarised below.

	2007-08 \$'million	2008-09 \$'million	2009-10 \$'million	2010-11 \$'million	2011-12 \$'million	2012-13 \$'million
Actual expenditure ¹	41.687	88.881	253.594	840.497	1 360.929	TBA ²

Notes:

- 1) Actual expenditure includes only IMA related expenditure from programs 4.3, 4.5 and 4.6. In program 4.5, only sub-program "Returns and Reintegration Assistance Packages" relates to IMAs.
- 2) Expenditure for the 2012-13 financial year will not be available until the financial statements have been finalised.

Costs incurred in the care and management of IMAs are dynamic and influenced by a range of factors including the number and rate of arrivals, processing times, rejection rates, the number of families or unaccompanied minors, the detention accommodation footprint, placement options, health issues and the health care required, the need for interpreters, escort costs, transport costs, costs associated with appeals and security costs/issues.