

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 11 February 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE13/0295) PROGRAM – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash (Written) asked:

In expanding the Community Detention program, how many dwellings have been acquired and/or accessed in 2011-12 and in 2012-13 to date? How many are forecast for acquisition in the remainder of the financial year and in 2013-14? Where are they? how much has been spent on: (a) Acquisition costs and rental costs of each dwelling or residence (broken down by postcode), (b) purchasing household goods, (c) Installing household goods including labour costs, (d) connection fees for utilities, (e) recruitment of additional staff including case managers, for example.

Answer:

The department does not directly lease properties to accommodate clients entering the community detention program. In 2011-12, 518 properties were leased by service providers to house clients in community detention. As at 7 February 2013, 936 properties had been leased in 2012-13.

The dwellings leased are located in the ACT, NSW, QLD, SA, TAS, VIC and WA.

The number of leased dwellings required for the remainder of the current year and in 2013-14 will be determined by the number and composition of clients who are placed in the program.

Rental expenditure amounted to \$9.54 million in 2011-12, and \$10.8 million year to date as at 31 January 2013. The financial system does not provide this information by postcode.

Household formation expenditure (which includes installation) amounted to \$6.98 million in 2011-12, and \$2.29 million year to date as at 31 January 2013. The financial system does not break down to the connection fee for utilities. This item is captured within utilities expenditure.

Service provider staffing levels are informed by the number and composition of clients who are residing in community detention and by agreed caseworker to client ratios.