

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 11 February 2013**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

**(AE13/0298) PROGRAM – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management**

Senator Cash (Written) asked:

What is the cost per person per day for families and unaccompanied minors in community detention? What is the health cost and who meets those costs? What about pharmaceuticals? Who pays for them? What about transport costs and taxis, for example? Who pays for them? At what cost? What are these costs for the 2011-12 financial year and 2012-13 to date?

*Answer:*

The individual per person breakdown of costs for families and unaccompanied minors cannot be reasonably estimated due to dynamic factors such as the overall number of clients, the makeup of cohorts, the variability of costs by location and individual client needs.

Health services for clients in community detention are provided by community providers, who are networked to International Health and Medical Services (IHMS). The costs of these health services are billed to IHMS and passed through to the Department. The community detention health expenditure, which includes pharmaceuticals, amounted to \$8.2 million in 2011-12, and \$6.1 million in 2012-13 to 11 February 2013.

Clients in community detention are provided with a fortnightly living allowance. This is used to pay for general household and living expenses including transport and taxis.

Expenditure in 2012-13 will be determined by the number and composition of clients in community detention, and their individual health needs.