

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 11 February 2013**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

**(AE13/0331) PROGRAM – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management**

Senator Cash (Written) asked:

What has been the cost of operating Christmas Island detention facilities in 2011-12 and 2012-13 to date? Please provide a breakdown of those costs. What was the cost of transporting asylum seekers (including the use of charter aircraft and buses, cars etc) to and from the centre, including as a result of transfer from another centre, transfers for health and other appointments and outings? Please provide a breakdown of costs including the number of people involved for 2011-12. What are the budgeted costs for 2012-13?

*Answer:*

The cost of operating the immigration detention facilities on Christmas Island in 2011-2012 and for 2012-13 as at 28 February 2013 is:

<b>Item Description</b>	<b>FY 11-12 Actual Costs</b>	<b>FY 12-13 Actual Costs as at Feb 28</b>
Accommodation Leasing	\$8,767,096	\$7,208,150
Aircharter and freight	\$29,120,628	\$20,405,215
Detention Services	\$113,384,876	\$86,084,770
DIAC staff costs and allowances	\$16,525,927	\$13,891,281
Client Support and Health Services	\$33,336,771	\$36,071,650
Interpreters	\$16,376,794	\$11,510,221
IT Communications motor vehicle and property expenses	\$14,890,207	\$9,747,844
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$232,402,299</b>	<b>\$184,919,131</b>

The very detailed information sought relating to client and escort numbers is not readily available in consolidated form and it would be a major task to collect and assemble it. The considerable resources required to collate the information cannot be justified.

A budget estimate for 2012-2013 for specific transfers into and out of Christmas Island is not available.