

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 11 February 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE13/0352) PROGRAM – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash (Written) asked:

Has the department prepared plans for the closure of detention centres? If so, which ones will be closed and when? How many detention places will the department keep open for new arrivals? At what projected cost? Isn't this an admission that the government's policy is now to accept unlawful arrivals as a permanent part of the migration program?

Answer:

The immigration detention network is used to manage risks to the community for a variety of client groups, including some unauthorised air arrivals, people who overstay their visas or breach visa conditions, illegal foreign fishers and irregular maritime arrivals.

At this time the capacity of the immigration detention network is appropriate for current and anticipated needs. Accommodation capacity is continuously monitored and adjustments will be made as required.

Detention costs are part of the overall estimate for the 2012-13 financial year for the care and management of irregular maritime arrivals, on page 57 of the 2012-13 Portfolio Budget Statement.