

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 11 February 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE13/0383) PROGRAM – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash (Written) asked:

What has been the cost of operating the detention facilities at Scherger, in 2011-12 and 2012-13 to date? Please provide a breakdown of those costs including capital and repair costs. How many asylum seekers are currently detained there by length of time, age, gender and country of origin? How many have been released on a bridging visa, into community detention or given a permanent visa? What was the budgeted cost to maintain and operate the centre in 2012-13?

Answer:

The cost of operating the detention facilities at Scherger in 2011-2012 was as follows:

Item Description	Actual Costs (\$)
Accommodation Leasing	6,141,749
Air charter and freight	3,401,049
Detention Services	42,105,803
DIAC staff costs and allowances	3,266,847
Client Support and Health Services	14,665,556
Interpreters	4,985,816
IT, Communications, motor vehicle and property expenses	10,007,196
Total Cost	84,574,016

The cost of operating the detention facilities at Scherger between July 2012 and February 2013 was as follows:

Item Description	SCHERGER IDC Actual Cost \$
Accommodation Leasing	3,592,233
Australian Red Cross	14,120
Charter Freight and Travel	1,918,299
Detention Services	37,730,251
Health Services	9,403,518
IAAAS	408,003
Interpreting Services	2,743,963
IT and Communications	307,101
Motor Vehicle Expenses	133,235
Property	2,594,073
DIAC Staff Costs	2,704,259
DIAC Staff Salaries	1,470,732
Total Cost	63,019,787

Please note that item grouping has been reverted to be align with requirements from the Department of Finance and Deregulation.

There was \$257,351 in capital expenditure in the 2011- 2012 financial year and \$30,246 from July 2012 to February 2013. Works undertaken included:

- the purchase of furniture, furnishings, equipment; and
- fire safety upgrade.

Ongoing maintenance and repair costs are included in the IT, communications, motor vehicle and property expenses category in the table above.

There is no fixed budget for operating the Scherger centre in 2012-13. The budget for Irregular Maritime Arrivals (IMAs) is developed using a financial estimates model based on IMA arrivals and average occupancy rates across all forms of immigration detention throughout the year. Estimates are regularly reviewed as part of the Budget process and are dependent on client arrival rates, the client cohort and average occupancy numbers in all placement options.

As at COB 11 February 2013, there were 510 IMAs accommodated in Scherger.

Below is a breakdown by length of time in detention, age, gender, country of origin and numbers released into the community.

Time in Detention	Scherger Immigration Detention Centre
0 to 90 days	0
91 + days	510

Age Group	Scherger Immigration Detention Centre
0 to 17 Years	0
18 to 35 Years	407
36 + years	103

Gender	Scherger Immigration Detention Centre
Male	510
Female	0

Nationality	Scherger Immigration Detention Centre
Burma	*
Claimed Stateless	17
India	*
Myanmar	*
Sri Lanka	486

Release Type**	Scherger Immigration Detention Centre
Bridging Visa	1205
Protection Visa	323
Community Detention	5

Based on operational data as at COB 11 February 2013

** Due to privacy reasons all nationalities with less than 10 people have been represented as an asterix.*

*** Numbers are for 2012-2013 financial year*