

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 11 February 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE13/0500) PROGRAM – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Hanson-Young (Written) asked:

Is Nauru requiring Australia to pay for a special visa of any sort (reported to be called an Australian regional processing visa) for any asylum seekers transferred to Nauru from Australia since August 13 2012? If so, how much does the visa cost? how long does it last? is the full payment (cost of the visa) required for each time the visa expires and needs to be reapplied/extended? Is the Commonwealth of Australia solely responsible for paying the visa cost? How much money has been spent by the Commonwealth of Australia on this visa class since August 13 2012? How much money is projected to be spent by the Commonwealth of Australia on this visa class up to the end of this financial year?

Answer:

Yes.

The Australian Regional Processing Visa attracts a fee of \$3,000.

Three months.

Yes.

Yes.

As at 11 February 2013, no finalised invoices had been received from the Government of Nauru. Therefore, no funds had been expended for this purpose at that point in time.

Visa costs are one component of the total funding provided for the care and management of Irregular Maritime Arrivals (IMAs) at the Regional Processing Centres. The budget for IMAs is developed using a financial estimates model which is based on the number of IMA arrivals and average occupancy rates across all forms of immigration facilities throughout the year. Estimates are regularly reviewed as part of the Budget process and are dependent on IMA arrival rates, the client cohorts and the average occupancy numbers in all placement options.

