

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 22 May 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(167) Output 1.3: Enforcement of Immigration Law

Senator Ludwig (L&C 106) asked:

In relation to detainees who are billed, can you provide that per day cost or the average and how you calculate it? Do you draw that average cost from all detention centres? Does it include what we have just been talking about—the \$190 from Villawood and the \$2,895 from Christmas Island—to calculate how that average would then work out? If a person was in Villawood, my guess is that it would be a higher rate than what the actual cost of the detention would be.

Answer:

The daily maintenance amount is billed at a rate of \$125.40 (GST inclusive) for all Immigration Detention Facilities.

The centre with the lowest average cost is the rate applied as the daily maintenance amount to all facilities to ensure that the detention costs are less than the cost to the Commonwealth.

The daily maintenance amount for a particular detention centre is calculated by determining the expense to the Department for detention services. Only expenses which relate directly to the operation of a place of detention and the care of the detainees, and which are accessed by all detainees are included in the calculation.