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By: DIAC

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QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

The information below is provided in response to Senator Barnett's request for an update to QON (59), asked in February 2010:

From 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009, a total of 32 charter aircraft were procured by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) to support the processing of irregular maritime arrivals on Christmas Island. These charters carried a total of 2,526 people to and from Christmas Island, including irregular maritime arrivals, DIAC officials and service providers, and other agency staff as required. The 32 charters were procured at a cost of \$2,675,560. The average cost per charter was \$83,611.

From 1 July 2009 to 30 April 2010, a total of 62 charter aircraft were procured by DIAC to support the processing of irregular maritime arrivals on Christmas Island. These charters carried a total of 6,514 people to and from Christmas Island, including Government officials, irregular maritime arrivals and other agency staff as required. The 62 charters were procured at a cost of \$8,204,111. The average cost per charter was \$132,324.

'Program 4.3: Offshore asylum seeker management'