

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 24 MAY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE11/0309) Program 4.1: Visa Compliance and Status Resolution

Senator Cash (L&CA 12) asked:

To which countries and at what cost have failed asylum seekers who have arrived documented at Australia air and sea ports, been returned?

Answer:

The Department does not have consolidated data for the final destination countries of removees, and those departing on Bridging E visas. Often a client will be removed or will return to their country of nationality.

The individual cost of a removal depends on a wide range of factors including the destination and commercial airfare costs, whether security or other escorts are required (including their airfares, accommodation and allowances) and the types of immediate post-return assistance that may be appropriate.

From 1 July 2010 - 31 March 2011 the average cost for a non-IMA removal was around \$4000. This figure does not include location, detention, case management or review costs.