

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 24 MAY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE11/0364) Program 4.2: Onshore Detention Network

Senator Cash asked:

I refer to the answer given to QoN 184 from the February Additional Estimates, which states that “a methadone maintenance program is currently in operation at both the Maribyrnong and Villawood Immigration Detention Centre”. Please provide details on what the “methadone maintenance program” consists of in each of these locations, how many people are undergoing treatment via this program in each location, and at what cost?

Answer:

Two clients currently receive methadone treatments as part of a methadone program – one at Maribyrnong Immigration Detention Centre and the other at Villawood Immigration Detention Centre. One client is on the program for a previous heroin addiction and the other is for pain management.

In both cases, the methadone program involves a prescriber visiting the site to review the client at scheduled intervals. Neither client leaves the immigration detention facility as part of the methadone treatment program.

Separate costings for the methadone programs run in the Villawood and Maribyrnong Immigration Detention Centres are not available. These programs are included in the health services provider contract and are not distinguished separately.