

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 24 MAY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE11/0503) Program 4.2: Onshore Detention Network

Senator Cash (L&CA 110) asked:

In terms of the ISPs, what was the cost of providing these internet connections per site for the last three financial years?

Answer:

Christmas Island

From 1 July 2010 to 31 May 2011, DIAC paid \$555,213 (GST exclusive) to Optus for the provision of internet services to clients on Christmas Island. The department has not been charged for the previous two years. Advice from Optus is that its policy is to not bill for services if an invoice is older than 12 months.

Mainland

The cost of providing internet services to clients in mainland detention facilities is covered by the detention service fees paid to Serco by the department. A breakdown of internet costs by site is not possible because invoices from Serco do not disaggregate services provided at this level.