

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

### **BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 23 - 24 MAY 2011**

#### **IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO**

#### **(BE11/0613) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management**

Senator Cash asked:

I refer to answer to QoN 313 Program 4.3 at the February Estimates hearing where it was stated: A large percentage of the abovementioned 121 cases (being cases where communicable disease was detected) would have been transported to the mainland. Transport is by commercial or chartered aircraft in the case of a general or non-urgent transfer, and by air ambulance or the Royal Flying Doctor Service. Since August 2008 on how many occasions has commercial or chartered aircraft or air ambulance or the Royal Flying Doctor Service being used to transport cases to the mainland?

*Answer:*

From August 2008 to 6 May 2011, Careflight or the Royal Flying Doctor Service have been used a total of 29 times to transport clients from Christmas Island to the mainland for medical treatment. None of these people were being transported to the mainland for treatment related to a communicable disease.

Clients are transported routinely from Christmas Island to the mainland for medical treatment where such treatment is not available on Christmas Island.

The Department does not distinguish between non urgent medical transfers and those transferred to the mainland for other reasons on commercial or chartered aircraft. Hence, the Department is unable to provide the further information requested. However, none of these clients was transported to the mainland for treatment related to a communicable disease.