

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 23-24 MAY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE11/0614) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash asked:

On those commercial or chartered aircraft or air ambulance or the Royal Flying Doctor Service was used to transport cases to the mainland. What is the cost per flight?

Answer:

From August 2008 to 6 May 2011, the average cost per Royal Flying Doctor Service flight from Christmas Island to the mainland was \$85 398.

The cost of an economy fare from Christmas Island to Perth by commercial aircraft is currently \$644.

No charters have been arranged for the express purpose of transporting people requiring mainland medical treatment.