

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 23-24 MAY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE11/0629) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash asked:

With reference to the incident where immigration officials were forced to take asylum-seekers off a flight from Christmas Island to the mainland after the charter pilot expressed concern some had not passed health checks. Of the 92 asylum seekers how many were not cleared prior to embarking the charter flight?

Answer:

All clients originally on the flight had undergone a complete Health Induction Assessment within 72 hours of arrival on Christmas Island, including comprehensive TB testing. Of these, 12 clients were awaiting chest x-ray results.