

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 24 MAY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE11/0687) Program 4.3 Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash asked:

What is the cost per person per day of the families and unaccompanied minors in community detention?

Answer:

A cost per person per day equation does not accurately reflect the costs for community detention.

It is anticipated that the costs of the community detention program for the 2010-11 financial year will be \$15.734 million. This figure will be confirmed once the Department's financial statements have been finalised and signed off by the Australian National Audit Office.

The costs incurred to date reflect the high initial costs for the program (such as securing leases, connection fees for utilities and provision of household goods in each property). These initial costs are higher than can be expected for future financial years due to the expansion of the program from around 50 clients in January 2011 to over 1500 in June 2011.