

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 MAY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE12/0070) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash asked:

What has been the cost of operating the Christmas Island detention facilities in 2011-12? Please provide a breakdown of those costs. How many asylum seekers are currently detained there by length of time, age, gender and country of origin? How many have been released on a bridging visa; into community detention or given a permanent visa? What is the budgeted cost to maintain and operate the centre in 2012-13?

Answer:

It is anticipated that the Christmas Island direct operational costs for the 2011-12 financial year will be as follows:

Item Description	Actual Costs (\$)
Accommodation Leasing	8,767,096
Aircharter and freight	29,120,628
Detention Services	113,384,876
DIAC staff costs and allowances	16,525,927
Client Support and Health Services	33,336,771
Interpreters	16,376,794
IT, Communications, motor vehicle and property expenses	14,890,207
Total Cost	232,402,299

These figures will be confirmed once the Department's 2011-12 financial statements have been completed and signed off by the Australian National Audit Office.

The budget estimate of costs for the care and management of Irregular Maritime Arrivals for the 2012-13 financial year is \$1,003 million – see page 57 of the 2012-13 Portfolio Budget Statements. This covers costs beyond the operation of the Christmas Island detention facilities.

As at close of business 21 May 2012:

- The number of Irregular Maritime Arrivals (IMAs) accommodated on Christmas Island was 1407.

Below is a breakdown by length of time in detention, age, gender and country of origin.

Time in detention	Number
0 to 90 days	1372
91 to 180 days	-
181 to 270 days	1
271 to 360 days	1
365 + days	33
Total	1407

Age group	Number
0 to 17 years	112
18 to 25 years	501
26 to 35 years	461
36 to 45 years	221
46+ years	112
Total	1407

Gender	Number
Adult Male	1208
Adult Female	66
Accompanied Minors	104
Unaccompanied Minor	29
Total	1407

Nationality	Number
Afghanistan	675
Sri Lanka	274
Pakistan	131
Iran	109
Iraq	65
Claimed Stateless	63
Other	90
Total	1407

During the period 10 February 2011 to close of business 21 May 2012:

- 105 IMAs were placed in the community under residence determination on the Australian mainland from Christmas Island;
- 507 IMAs were released on protection visas directly from Christmas Island; and
- 78 IMAs were released from Christmas Island Immigration detention facilities on a bridging visa

Data relating to the location of clients prior to release is not readily accessible before 10 February 2011.