

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21-22 MAY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE12/0429) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum seeker management

Senator Cash (L&CA 116) asked:

In expanding the community detention program, how many dwellings have been acquired and/or accessed in 2011-12 and how many are forecast for acquisition in 2012-13?

Answer:

The department does not acquire properties to accommodate clients entering the community detention program. For 2011-12, 726 properties have been leased by service providers nationally to house clients in community detention.

The number of leased dwellings required for the 2012-13 year will be determined by the number and family composition of clients who arrive, the Minister's decision whether or not to place them in community detention, and how quickly they transition on to a temporary or permanent visa or depart from Australia. The number of dwellings for community detention cannot be accurately forecast given these variables.