

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21-22 MAY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE12/0454) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash asked:

Has the department prepared plans for the closure of any detention centres? If so, which ones will be closed and when? How many detention places will the department keep open for new arrivals. At what projected costs?

Answer:

At this time the capacity of the immigration detention network is appropriate for current and anticipated needs and there are no plans to close any immigration detention facilities. Accommodation capacity is continuously monitored and adjustments will be made as required.

The estimate for the 2012-13 financial year for the care and management of Irregular Maritime Arrivals (IMA), as shown on page 57 of the 2012-13 Portfolio Budget Statements, is \$1 003 million. This estimate is based on detailed, complex financial models. The estimate of costs to manage immigration facilities utilised for IMAs is a component of these models.