

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

### **BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 28 May 2013**

#### **IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO**

#### **(BE13/0130) PROGRAM – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management**

Senator Cash (L&CA 63) asked:

Senator CASH: And how many are in transit? Literally how many have flowed through the network to 30 April?

Mr Bowles: Largely, you would say that at least the people who have arrived in the 2012-13 year since 1 July to now, which is the 22,000 figure, have flowed through the detention network. We could have had people in there before, and they could have moved through and we have replaced them with others. Again, it is quite complicated- but that is how it works.

Mr Cahill : We can follow that up—we have something on that—but it is complicated, so we will have to outline the methodology.

Senator CASH: Because it is complicated, I will just confirm that you will still attempt to provide the per unit costs on notice.

*Answer:*

During 2012-13, 30 895 people were taken into immigration detention facilities. This includes IMAs and people detained under the compliance program. The length of time these people remained in detention varies substantially from as short as less than a day to greater than one year.

The Department's data holdings and funding arrangements are not aligned in a way that would enable us to meaningfully derive the unit costs associated with people who are detained in the immigration detention network.