

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27-28 May 2013

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

#### **(BE13/0349) PROGRAM – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management**

Senator Cash (Written) asked:

What was the cost of transporting asylum seekers (including the use of charter aircraft and buses, cars etc.) to and from the centre [Christmas Island], including as a result of transfer from another centre, transfers for health and other appointments and outings? Please provide a breakdown of costs including the number of people involved for 2011-12. What are the budgeted costs for 2012-13?

*Answer:*

The costs for transporting asylum seekers out of the Christmas Island immigration detention facility for 2011-12 and for 2012-13 as at 31 May 2013 is:

<b>Category</b>	<b>FY 11/12 Costs</b>	<b>FY 12/13 to 31 May Costs</b>
Commercial Travel	\$9,624,131	\$2,951,239
Charter	\$21,158,422	\$24,634,438
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$30,782,553</b>	<b>\$27,585,677</b>

The reported expenses reflect flights transferring clients between facilities, and to and from medical and legal appointments, as well as travel to destinations in the community.

Local outings are provided by our contracted service providers. Associated costs are covered by larger contractual arrangements.

Costs for transporting asylum seekers into the facilities are not recorded as this is reflected in the outgoing costs for the facility they have been transferred from.

The very detailed information sought is not readily available in consolidated form. The Department is not in a position to dedicate the considerable resources required to collate this information.

A budget estimate for 2012-2013 for specific transfers into and out of Christmas Island is not available.