

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 31 May 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE13/0352) PROGRAM – 4.2: Onshore Detention Network

Senator Cash (Written) asked:

How many asylum seekers have had initial identity and health checks undertaken at Darwin as opposed to Christmas Island in 2012-13? Why - on what basis was this decision made?

Answer:

Every asylum seeker who was a direct boat arrival at Darwin in 2012 – 2013 had their initial health and identity checks undertaken in Darwin. Every asylum seeker who arrived at Christmas Island in 2012 – 2013 had their health and identity checks undertaken on Christmas Island.

Based on operational data, between 1 July 2012 and 28 May 2013, around 19 500 people arrived at Christmas Island. Around 3150 people arrived at Darwin. These figures include Irregular Maritime Arrivals on board boats that were intercepted in waters around northern Australia where an operational decision was made to take the persons on board directly to Darwin.