

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27-28 May 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE13/0380) PROGRAM – 4.2: Onshore Detention Network

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 [Northern Territory], 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 and 2012-13 to date. What were the budgeted costs for 2012-13?

Answer:

The cost for transporting asylum seekers out of the Northern Territory immigration detention facilities for 2011-12 and for 2012-13 as at 31 May 2013 is:

Category	FY 11/12 Costs	FY 12/13 to 31 May Costs
Commercial Travel	\$1,499,043	\$1,478,390
Charter	\$1,973,954	\$9,465,044
TOTAL	\$3,472,997	\$10,943,434

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.

Information relating to client and escorts numbers is not readily available and an unreasonable degree of effort would be required to extract this information from official records.

A budget estimate for 2012-2013 for specific transfers into and out of the Northern Territory immigration detention facilities is not available.