

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

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

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

**(BE13/0425) PROGRAM – 4.2: Onshore Detention Network**

Senator Cash (L&CA Written) asked:

Has the department prepared plans for the closure of 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 cost? Isn't this an admission that the government's policy is now to accept unlawful arrivals as a permanent part of the migration program?

*Answer:*

The department has no plans to close detention centres at this time. Policy parameters, operational needs and client flows guide the continued use of facilities in the immigration detention network. The department continually reviews these requirements and makes adjustments as required.

Projected costs are a component of the total funding provided for the care and management of Irregular Maritime Arrivals (IMAs). The budget for IMAs is developed using a financial estimates model based on IMA arrivals and average occupancy rates across all forms of immigration detention throughout the year. Please refer to the Portfolio Budget Statements 2013-14, pp.52-56.

Facilities will continue to be used to accommodate any persons, who according to law or policy, are required to be held in immigration detention.