

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27-28 May 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE13/0556) PROGRAM – 4.2: Onshore Detention Network

Senator Hanson-Young (Written) asked:

With respect to the management of contracts and payments for the Community Detention Program, could DIAC provide for the year 2012-13 and projections for the forward estimates period of: (a) The average number of (i) care plan amendments, and (ii) invoices and individual invoice items submitted for processing disaggregated for unaccompanied minors, families with children, and individual adults. (b) The average time taken to (i) approve care plan amendments, and (ii) invoices and individual invoice items submitted for processing disaggregated for unaccompanied minors, families with children, and individual adults. (c) The average and total number of Community Detention Program expense requests – and value in dollar terms - submitted by program providers that have been contested by DIAC and the bases for contesting or refusing payment. (d) The cost to DIAC of administering the Community Detention Program

Answer:

For the program year 2012-13 as at 30 April 2013:

(a) (i) The average number of care plan amendments (CPAs) per month was 227.

(b) (i) To attempt to provide the information requested would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources. The Department sets a standard of seven working days to approve CPAs.

(a) (ii) and (b) (ii) The financial system does not have the capacity to report on the average number of invoices and the time taken to process invoices disaggregated for unaccompanied minors, families with children, and individual adults.

(c) To attempt to provide the information requested would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.

(d) The cost to DIAC of administering the Community Detention Program is \$133.76 million for the 2012-13 program year as at 30 April 2013.

These 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. Estimates are regularly reviewed as part of the Budget process and are dependent on client arrival rates, the client cohort and average occupancy numbers in all placement options.