

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27-28 May 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE13/0557) PROGRAM – 4.2: Onshore Detention Network

Senator Hanson-Young (Written) asked:

For the Community Detention Program, why does DIAC require community service organisations to meet program expenses up front and then seek reimbursement from the Department as opposed to the standard process in government contracts for the provision of social services in which providers are funded and provided with guidelines on the purposes for which funding may be used? Has DIAC done any analysis of the relative efficiency of these contracting options? Will there be any variations in the administration of contracts in the next Community Detention Program tender to minimise administrative imposts on providers (sub-contractors and lead agencies) and DIAC?

Answer:

The Community Detention Program is demand driven and expenses are reimbursed monthly on actual expenses. Upfront expenses vary between each service provider as they are determined by house sizes, the composition of clients and staff requirements.

The Department has created an Integrated Service Delivery Framework to bring together four existing support programs, including the Community Detention Program, into a single program to deliver needs and risk based services to clients in resolving their immigration status. It is intended the resulting program known as the Status Resolution Support Services Program will minimise administrative imposts on providers and improve efficiency.