

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 28 May 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE13/0573) PROGRAM – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash (L&CA 98) asked:

Senator CASH: Could you take on notice the cost of the charter flight to Christmas Island, if anyone was brought back to Perth or Yongah Hill, what the costs were to get them back onto the mainland and confirm the cost of the charter to Colombo. We believe it was about \$160,000. ...

Answer:

The cost of the charter flight to move the clients from Perth to Christmas Island was \$240,157.

Between 9 April 2013 and 28 May 2013 eight clients from this suspected irregular entry vessel were transferred from Christmas Island to Yongah Hill immigration detention centre. It is not possible to disaggregate the costs associated with transferring these eight clients back onto the mainland as the charter flights were not utilised solely for the purpose of transferring these clients.

The cost of the charter flight to return 38 clients from this vessel to Colombo was \$183,427.