

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 1 November 2005

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(162) Output 1.3: Enforcement of Immigration Law

Senator Ludwig asked:

In how many cases has a debt been charged to a person held in detention following the cancellation of their student visa?

- (a) How much in total debt does that represent?
- (b) Could that be charged in each case?
- (c) What was the nationality of the person for each of these cases?
- (d) For each of these debts, where had the person been held and for how long?

Answer:

Generally, all unlawful non-citizens who are placed in immigration detention, incur a debt for their immigration detention costs. An exception is where people are held in immigration detention for less than 24 hours, in which case no cost is charged to the detainee.

For the 2004-2005 Financial Year, 455 students were held in immigration detention. Of these, 408 incurred debts for immigration detention costs.

- (a) The total amount of immigration detention debt incurred was \$1,366,525.96.
- (b) Invoices are sent to detainees following their release from immigration detention. The release date is the date at which detainees are charged for their detention. The details for each person have not been listed because it would enable the identification of individuals.
- (c) The people were nationals of the following countries: Bangladesh, Botswana, China, Czech Republic, Fiji, Ghana, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Poland, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, United Republic Of Tanzania, Thailand, Tonga, Turkey, United Kingdom, Viet Nam, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
- (d) The people were held in the following facilities: ACT Police Station Lockup, Baxter IRPC, Maribyrnong Detention, NSW IDC Villawood Stage 1, NSW IDC Villawood Stage 2, NSW IDC Villawood Stage 3, NT Darwin Correctional Centre, Perth Detention, QLD Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre, QLD Brisbane Police Watch House, QLD Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre, QLD Southport Police Watch House, SA Police Watch House and WA Private Apartment. The length of time each person was held has not been listed, because it would enable the identification of individuals.