

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 30 October 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(225) Output 1.5: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Crossin (L&CA 103) asked:

What are the costs associated with those two visits, and what is the cost associated with the psychiatrist going monthly to Nauru?

Answer:

The first mental health advisory group (the Hon. John Hodges, Mr Paris Aristotle, and Dr Ida Kaplan) visited Nauru between 22 and 23 September, 2005. The cost of the group's visit was \$12,895; comprising commercial airfares, accommodation, visas, departure tax, per diem and incidentals.

The second group (Professor Ian Hickie and Dr David Burke) visited Nauru between 16 and 18 June, 2006. The cost of the group's visit was \$76,660; comprising chartered aircraft [as no commercial service was available], accommodation, visas, departure tax, professional fees, per diem and incidentals.

The cost of DIMA maintaining psychiatric services in Nauru, a psychiatrist visiting monthly for a week at a time and a psychiatric nurse stationed in Nauru full-time, is around \$42,000 a month.