

TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 OCTOBER 2008

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(59) Output 1.5: Detention

Senator Hanson-Young (L&CA 110-111) asked:

(1) Can you tell me how much it costs to run the Christmas Island centres when no-one is being detained?

(2) How much has it been costing per day since the first boat arrived? Include operating costs and processing costs.

Answer:

(1) When not in use, the Department's facilities at North West Point and Phosphate Hill (including the Construction Camp) not including depreciation, cost annually an estimated \$9.0m and \$0.98m respectively in fixed maintenance costs, security and variable costs (such as utilities).

(2) Since the first boat arrived on 2 October 2008 until 31 December 2008, based on invoices received and paid, additional average daily operating and processing costs over and above those costs at Part (1) include:

- Detention Services Provider approximately \$6,300 per day;
- Interpreting services approximately \$4,500 per day, and
- Additional DIAC staff costs and allowances, approximately \$4,500 per day.

In addition, aircraft charter costs of approximately \$900,000 have been incurred during the period.

However, these costs are highly variable depending on the number of people on the island and the range of services provided.