

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 20 OCTOBER 2009

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(41) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Barnett (L&C 94) asked:

You mentioned \$9.98 million and then \$32.5 million respectively for the costs of Christmas Island detention centre.

Provide the breakdown for the capital cost, the fixed cost and the variable cost.

Answer :

The \$32.5 million total cost that Mr Correll referred to (L&C 94) reflects the costs for detention services, health services, translation services, charter and freight costs and the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) staff costs and allowances which had been invoiced and paid for during the period 2 October 2008 to 31 August 2009 for all detention facilities on the Island.

The cost component of \$9.98m that Mr Correll referred to was an estimate that was provided to Senator Hanson-Young in response to a Question on Notice (59) at the Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing of 21 October 2008 (L&CA 110-111) where Senator Hanson-Young asked:

“Can you tell me how much it costs to run the Christmas Island centre when no-one is being detained?”

The answer provided at that time was:

“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 (such as utilities).”