

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(337) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash asked:

- (1) What about those of security concern who were transferred to Sydney? Are they still in Villawood?
- (2) What was the cost of transporting the family to Villawood from Christmas Island and what is the cost of keeping them detained in the community housing facility at Villawood?
- (3) How long have they been there? How long will they remain?
- (4) What is the cost of providing guards to escort the eldest child to school?

Answer:

- (1) Yes, the family is currently housed at the Sydney Immigration Residential Housing (SIRH) facility.
- (2) The charter flight to bring the family to Sydney also carried another group of clients to the mainland. In addition, escorts and interpreters accompanied the group on the charter flight. It is not possible to disaggregate the costs of the transfer operation down to one particular client or family.
- (3) Since 13 August 2010. It is envisaged that the family will return to Christmas Island as soon as they are medically cleared to do so following the birth of their child.
- (4) It is not possible to disaggregate the costs of escorting one particular client attending school from the broader transport and escort function provided for all clients.