

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(338) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash asked:

1. In the 2009-2010 Financial Year, how many charter aircraft flights were procured by the Department to support the processing of illegal maritime arrivals on Christmas Island?
2. What was the cost of charter flights to carry Department staff and provisions to and from the Island?
3. What was the cost of transporting asylum seekers between the Island and the mainland and back again?
4. What was the sum total cost of these charter flights above? What was the average cost of these charter flights?

Answer:

1. In the 2009-2010 financial year, a total of 83 charter flights were arranged by DIAC to support the processing of irregular maritime arrivals on Christmas Island.
2. There were no charter flights arranged during 2009-2010 for the sole purpose of carrying staff to and from Christmas Island. Six freight charters were arranged in 2009-2010 at a cost of approximately \$2 million.
3. A total of 77 charter flights were arranged by DIAC to transport irregular maritime arrivals to and from Christmas Island at a cost of approximately \$10 million.
4. The total cost of all 83 charters related to Christmas Island in 2009 -10 was approximately \$12 million. The average cost was approximately \$145,000 per charter.