

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 15 October 2012

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

#### **(SE12/0458) PROGRAM – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management**

Senator Cash (L&CA 79) asked:

What has been the cost of transferring asylum seekers between Cocos (Keeling) and Christmas islands, between Christmas Island and Nauru and between Christmas Island and the mainland?

*Answer:*

The combined commercial and charter flight costs for transferring asylum seekers between Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Christmas Island and Nauru and between Christmas Island and the mainland are as follows:

<b>2012-2013 (to 31 October)</b>	<b>Cost</b>
<b>Cocos (Keeling)-Christmas Island</b>	\$7 023 827
<b>Christmas Island - Nauru</b>	\$3 004 743
<b>Christmas Island – the mainland</b>	\$8 077 566
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$18 106 136</b>

This excludes the fixed base costs under the MoU for the plane leased through the Australian Antarctic Division, costs for departmental staff, interpreters and the Australian Federal Police who have all been involved in the client transfer process on Christmas Island. Security staff, provided by Serco and medical staff provided by IHMS (International Health and Medical Services) under existing contractual arrangements are also not included.