

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 15 October 2012

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

#### (SE12/0490) PROGRAM – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash (written) asked:

What has been the cost of operating the detention facilities at Scherger, in 2011-12? Please provide a breakdown of those costs including capital and repair costs. How many asylum seekers are currently detained there by length of time, age, gender and country of origin? How many have been released on a bridging visa; into community detention or given a permanent visa? What is the budgeted cost to maintain and operate the centre in 2012-13?

*Answer:*

The cost of operating the Scherger Immigration Detention Centre in 2011-2012 is as follows:

Item Description	Actual Costs (\$)
Accommodation Leasing	6 141 749
Aircharter and freight	3 401 049
Detention Services	42 105 803
DIAC staff costs and allowances	3 266 847
Client Support and Health Services	14 665 556
Interpreters	4 985 816
IT, Communications, motor vehicle and property expenses	10 007 196
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>84 574 016</b>

Includes ongoing maintenance and repair costs.

In addition for the financial year to 30 June 2012 there has been \$257 351 in capital expenditure. Works undertaken included:

- the purchase of furniture, furnishings, equipment; and
- fire safety upgrade.

As at cob 15 October 2012:

- The number of Irregular Maritime Arrivals (IMAs) accommodated in Scherger Immigration Detention Centre (IDC) was 282.

Below is a breakdown by length of time in detention, age, gender and country of origin.

<b>Time in detention</b>	<b>Number</b>
0 to 90 days	5
91 + days	277
<b>Total</b>	<b>282</b>

<b>Age group</b>	<b>Number</b>
0 to 17 years	-
18 to 35 years	230
36 + years	52
<b>Total</b>	<b>282</b>

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Number</b>
Adult Male	282
Adult Female	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>282</b>

<b>Nationality</b>	<b>Number</b>
Sri Lanka	188
Claimed Stateless	76
Other	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>282</b>

According to DIAC operational data\*;

During the period 3 November 2010 to cob 15 October 2012:

- 31 IMAs were placed into community detention from Scherger IDC;
- 577 IMAs were released on protection visas from Scherger IDC; and
- 1241 IMAs were released on a bridging visa from Scherger IDC.

\* Data relating to location of clients prior to release is not readily accessible before 28 January 2011.

There is no specific budget allocated for the IDC in the 2012-13 financial year.