

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 15 October 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE12/0494) PROGRAM – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash (written) asked:

What has been the cost of operating the detention facilities at Northam, in 2012? 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?

Answer:

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

Item Description	Actual Costs (\$)
Aircharter and freight	160 815
Detention Services	3 732 773
DIAC staff costs and allowances	832 777
Client Support and Health Services	311924
Interpreters	703
IT, Communications, motor vehicle and property expenses	276 069
Total Cost	5 315 061

In addition for the financial year to 30 June 2012 there has been \$168 110 611 in capital expenditure (predominately relating to the initial completion of the facility). Works undertaken included:

- furniture fittings and equipment;
- security comprising fencing and CCTV;
- purchase & installation of buildings;
- installation of recreational facilities (sporting fields, undercover sporting areas, gyms etc); and
- project management.

Ongoing maintenance and repair costs are included in the IT, Communications, motor vehicle and property expenses category in the table above.

As at cob 15 October 2012:

- The number of Irregular Maritime Arrivals (IMAs) accommodated in Yongah Hill Immigration Detention Centre (IDC) was 467.

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

Time in detention	Number
0 to 90 days	97
91 + days	370
Total	467

Age group	Number
0 to 17 years	0
18 to 35 years	368
36 + years	99
Total	467

Gender	Number
Male	467
Female	0
Total	467

Nationality	Number
Afghanistan	148
Sri Lanka	263
Pakistan	34
Claimed Stateless and Other	22
Total	467

According to DIAC operational data*;

During the period 18 September 2012 to cob 15 October 2012:

- 3 IMAs were placed into community detention from Yongah Hill IDC;
- 3 IMAs were released on protection visas from Yongah Hill IDC; and
- 449 IMAs were released on a bridging visa from Yongah Hill IDC.

* Data relating to location of clients prior to release is not readily accessible before 18 September 2012.