

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 15 October 2012**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

**(SE12/0633B) PROGRAM – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management**

Senator Cash (written) asked:

What was the cost of transporting asylum seekers (including the use of charter aircraft and buses, cars etc.) to and from the centre, including as a result of transfer from another centre, transfers for health and other appointments and outings? Please provide a breakdown of costs including the number of people involved for 2011-12. What are the budgeted costs for 2012-13?

*Answer:*

The cost of domestic fares, detention escorts and transport for the 2011-12 financial year, was \$5,179,203 for Villawood Immigration Detention Centre and Sydney Immigration Residential Housing.

The very detailed information sought on costs is not readily available in consolidated form and it would be a major task to collect and assemble it. The considerable resources required to collate the information cannot be justified.

The department does not prepare budget estimates for the care and management of Irregular Maritime Arrivals (IMAs) at a level of detail that separately identifies the various forms and costs of client transportation by facility.