

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 15 October 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE12/0646) PROGRAM – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash (written) asked:

Provide an update of the capacity building on Manus? How many asylum seekers can be accommodated currently and how many say by the end of the year? What has been the cost to date? What are the budgeted capital costs for 2012-13 and the forward estimates and what is the budgeted running costs for 2012-13 and the forward estimates?

Answer:

Capacity was increased during October 2012. As at 31 October 2012, up to 500 asylum seekers could be accommodated and this level of capacity, of the temporary centre, is not expected to increase. Between 1 July 2012 and 31 October 2012 there has been \$3.65M spent. Neither operating nor capital costs for the establishment of permanent facilities on Manus Island have yet been finalised.