

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21-22 MAY 2012

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

#### **(BE12/0374) Program 4.2: Onshore Detention Network**

Senator Cash asked:

How long are IMAs staying on Christmas Island after interception? How long will Christmas Island detention centre remain open? What average population and length of stay is the department budgeting to accommodate there in 2012/13 and over the forward estimates?

Answer:

According to DIAC operational data:

The 1407 clients who were accommodated on Christmas Island as at COB 21 May 2012 had been held in detention for an average time of 25 days.

The department constantly monitors accommodation requirements across the immigration detention network and makes adjustments as required. There are no plans to close the Christmas Island Immigration Detention Centre at this time.

For the purposes of the financial modelling for estimating Irregular Maritime Arrival (IMA) expenditure in the 2012-13 Budget, a series of average population assumptions across all centres of operation were used to guide the construction of the costing estimates.

The financial modelling assumes that all IMA clients will be initially processed on Christmas Island before they are transferred to an appropriate mainland facility for further processing. It is assumed in the model that a new arrival would stay on Christmas Island for a relatively short period of time before they transfer onshore hence the average monthly profile for Christmas Island remains relatively low across the financial year. However, it should be noted that as all arrivals are processed first on Christmas Island, the throughput of clients on Christmas Island would be higher on average than that of the other detention sites on the mainland.

The following table provides monthly averages of client occupancy that have been used for the costing estimates of Held Detention on Christmas Island in the 2012-13 Budget:

<b>Occupancy numbers used for Budget</b>	<b>FY 12/13</b>	<b>FY 13/14</b>	<b>FY 14/15</b>	<b>FY 15/16</b>
Christmas Island monthly average*	375	249	170	113

\*This monthly estimate excludes staffing and contractor assumptions.