Question on notice no. 214

Portfolio question number: SE17/215

2017-18 Supplementary budget estimates

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, Immigration and Border Protection Portfolio

Senator the Hon. Kim Carr: asked the Department of Immigration and Border Protection on 23 October 2017—

Please detail the annual cost to the Department of one person being onshore immigration detention in Australia

Answer —

Immigration detention facility costs include a mix of fixed and variable costs, some of which are based on detainee numbers and others which are fixed regardless of the number of detainees.

Due to this variability, the average cost of detaining someone in a facility has been derived using total cost accruals for the period (the financial year or part thereof) divided by the average number of detainees over the same period.

For the period 1 July to 30 September 2017 the average annualised cost of one person being held in onshore immigration detention is $346,178. This figure excludes departmental operation capital expenditure.