

Question on notice no. 358

Portfolio question number: AE21-358

2020-21 Additional estimates

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, Home Affairs Portfolio

Senator Nick McKim: asked the Australian Border Force on 22 March 2021—

(1. Please provide comparative figures of:

- a. allowing someone to reside in the community;
- b. detaining them in an immigration detention facility; and
- c. detaining them in hotel detention.

2. When did the Department do formal cost analyses of these different options?

- a. Please provide these analyses to the Committee.

Answer —

Please see the attached answer.

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES
22 MARCH 2021**

Home Affairs Portfolio

Program 1.3: Onshore Compliance and Detention

AE21-358 - Comparative figures of community, immigration detention and hotel detention

Senator Nick McKim asked:

1. Please provide comparative figures of:
 - a. allowing someone to reside in the community;
 - b. detaining them in an immigration detention facility; and
 - c. detaining them in hotel detention.
2. When did the Department do formal cost analyses of these different options?
 - a. Please provide these analyses to the Committee.

Answer:

1.

- a. The full cost of someone residing in the community is not captured by the Department. Consequently the provision of comparative figures is not possible.

The department only captures the average cost per annum of the Status Resolution Support Services (SRSS) program, including income support, for a person in the community.

These costs vary depending on the SRSS bands. The average costs per annum for 2019-20, including income support are as follows:

- Bands 4 and 5 was \$16,652.
 - Band 6 was \$16,951.
 - SRSS for a person in a residence determination was \$46,490.
- b. The average administered cost per annum of holding a person in immigration detention in 2019-20 was \$361,835.
 - c. The average administered cost per annum of holding a person in a hotel accommodation is estimated at around \$471,493 per person in 2019-20. This yearly average cost per detainee is difficult to compare due to the largely fixed base of operating the APODs under the existing service profile, and the largely temporary cohort, with lower populations under management translating into higher per person costs.

2.

- a. The Department regularly monitors the costs associated with the onshore immigration detention network and performs this historical cost calculation on a regular basis. Average SRSS program costs are calculated annually.