

Question on notice no. 445

Portfolio question number: BE21-445

2021-22 Budget estimates

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, Home Affairs Portfolio

Senator Nick McKim: asked the Australian Border Force on 11 June 2021—

What is the total cost to the Australian taxpayer per year to keep a person:

- a. in closed immigration detention in Australia?
- b. in APOD detention?
- c. in Residence Determination (community detention) ?
- d. on a Bridging Visa E (with work rights) per year?
- i. for services provided to people in the community on bridging visas; and
- e. in a Regional Processing Centre? (broken down by PNG/Nauru) ?

Answer —

Please see the attached answer.

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
BUDGET ESTIMATES
24-25 MAY 2021**

**Home Affairs Portfolio
Australian Border Force**

Program 3.5: Onshore Compliance and Detention

BE21-445 - People in Detention - Cost

Senator Nick McKim asked:

What is the total cost to the Australian taxpayer per year to keep a person:

- a. in closed immigration detention in Australia?
- b. in APOD detention?
- c. in Residence Determination (community detention)?
- d. on a Bridging Visa E (with work rights) per year?
- i. for services provided to people in the community on bridging visas; and
- e. in a Regional Processing Centre? (broken down by PNG/Nauru)?

Answer:

- a. The average administered cost per annum of holding a person in immigration detention in 2019–20 was \$361,835, with the held detention population including those held in alternative places of detention (APODs).
- b. The average administered cost per annum of holding a person in hotel APOD accommodation in Brisbane and Melbourne in 2019-20 was \$458,506.
- c. The average administered cost per annum of holding a person in Residence Determination (community detention) in 2019–20 was \$46,490.
- d. The average administered cost per annum of keeping an individual in the community on a bridging visa (an SRSS recipient in General Society in 2019-20) was \$4,429.
- e. The Department does not calculate per person costs for regional processing. A simple division of the total contract value by the number of transferees in Nauru and Papua New Guinea is not an appropriate indicator due to the largely fixed base cost of operating regional processing facilities.