

Question on notice no. 84

Portfolio question number: BE22-084

2022-23 Budget estimates

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, Home Affairs Portfolio

Senator Nick McKim: asked the Department of Home Affairs on 19 April 2022—

Please provide the Committee with an update of the information provided in the following response to a previous Question on Notice:

BE21-445 - People in Detention - Cost

Answer —

Please see the attached answer.

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
BUDGET ESTIMATES
MARCH / APRIL 2022**

**Home Affairs Portfolio
Department of Home Affairs**

Program 3.5: Onshore Compliance and Detention

BE22-084 - People in Detention - Cost

Senator Nick McKim asked:

Please provide the Committee with an update of the information provided in the following responses to previous Question on Notice:

BE21-445 - People in Detention - Cost

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 operating cost per annum of holding a person in immigration detention was \$428,542 in 2020–21, with the held detention population including those held in alternative places of detention (APODs).
- b. The average administered operating cost per annum of holding a person in hotel APOD accommodation in Brisbane/ Kangaroo Point and Melbourne / Mantra Bell on Swanston was \$692,549 in 2020–21.
- c. The average administered operating cost per annum of holding a person in Residence Determination (community detention) was \$54,798 in 2020–21. This does not include associated education costs.
- d. The average administered operating cost per annum of keeping an individual in the community on Bridging Visa E in 2020–21 was \$3,962 (this is an average cost across the whole Bridging Visa E cohort).
- 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 a regional processing country is not an appropriate indicator due to the largely fixed base cost of operating regional processing facilities.