

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2014-15

Finance Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of Finance

Outcome/Program: 1/1.1

Topic: Spending on illegal maritime arrivals

Senator: Ludwig

Question reference number: F135

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Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator LUDWIG: The other one I was looking at was the illegal maritime arrivals and the closure of a number of immigration detention network facilities are around \$370 million of the decrease. Is there a breakdown between the IMA numbers and the detention network facilities?

Ms Huxtable: In respect of that, with the IMAs we forecast arrivals of 20 per month between the period when the budget came down and when the FBO was released and there were no arrivals in that time. So the costs associated with each of the people who did not arrive meant that there was a reduction in expenditure in that regard. I do not have the breakdown here between the two elements but I am sure we could take that on notice.

Answer:

Regarding the reduction in payments of \$370 million reported in the 2013-14 Final Budget Outcome, information held by Finance does not enable the impact of the closure of facilities and reduced IMA forecasts on the Final Budget Outcome to be apportioned.

The 2014-15 Budget measure *Immigration Detention Network – Estate Management Plan* nominated ten facilities for closure. Of these, only two facilities had occupants as at 1 July 2014, with the others either already closed or operating at zero occupancy.

The Government has forecast a conservative estimate of arrivals of 20 IMAs per month over the forward estimates. The forecast arrival rate is monitored and updated at each economic update. There was no successful boat venture to Australia between 1 January 2014 and 30 June 2014.

Further details on the breakdown of the \$370 million lower actual payments against estimates in 2013-14 should be directed to the Department of Immigration and Border Protection.