

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 23 February 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE15/011) - Closing of Detention Centres - Programme 3.1 Compliance, Detention and Status Resolution (Administered)

Senator Reynolds, Linda (L&CA 19) asked:

Senator REYNOLDS: Thank you. With 13 shortly to have been closed, last year in October you said that the forward estimate savings were, for the first 10, \$410 million. Do you have any updated figures, with the additional closures, of what the savings to the forward estimates will be for the operation of these centres?

Mr Douglas: I would have to take that on notice, Senator.

Senator REYNOLDS: That would be good; thank you. I want to go back and see what progress has been made. Could you advise us, Secretary, of the cost of IMAs to the department budget in 2007? Do you have those figures available?

Mr Pezzullo: Off the top of my head, there were no IMAs in our custody. So unless there were any late and underlying expenses to do with reserve capacity

Answer:

The \$410 million in savings related to the ten facilities that were closed during 2014. At this time the only further closure planned is Bladin Alternative Place Of Detention in Darwin. This facility will close on 7 April 2015. The savings associated with this closure will be agreed as part of the 2015-16 budget process.

The cost of Illegal Maritime Arrivals (IMAs) to the department budget in 2007 cannot be readily determined as the funding arrangements at the time did not include any specific appropriation for IMAs.