

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 20 OCTOBER 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE14/012) PROGRAMME – Internal Product

Senator Carr (L&CA 31) asked:

Senator KIM CARR: I am just wondering if you could help me out with a few statistics. How much is it costing us to run Manus Island?

[...]

Mr Cormack: Tell me if it is enough for you. Under administered: charters, \$20.7 million; escorts, \$7.8 million; reviews, \$387,000; garrison and welfare support, \$386,000; health care, \$177.82 million; advisory committee functions, \$3.131 million; returns, \$2.2 million; removals, \$992,000; visas, \$1.6 million; leases, \$8.3 million; payments to the government of PNG, \$7.9 million; ongoing community support, \$12.6 million; and post-assessment costs, \$41.3 million. That gives you a breakdown. On the departmental side it is \$8.5 million, rounding it up, for staff and \$15.3 million for supplies.

[...]

Senator KIM CARR: I see. Escort costs?

Mr Cormack: Escort costs, for which I think I gave a figure of \$7.8 million, are associated with the costs of movement of transferees to and from the Manus offshore processing centre.

[...]

Mr Cormack: the only other cost within the escorts that I need to take on notice is that we have an arrangement with the AFP for some of the onshore elements of our transfer escorts.

Answer:

The Department of Immigration and Border Protection reimbursed the Australian Federal Police \$8,295,267.21 for providing escorts for transfers to Manus Island, Nauru and Colombo in 2013-14.

As at 20 October 2014, the department has reimbursed the Australian Federal Police \$604,348.00 for providing escorts for transfers to Manus Island and Nauru in 2014-15.

The department is unable to provide a cost breakdown for escort services to each destination.

The Australian Federal Police does not provide escorts for onshore transfers.