

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2013-2014

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of Finance and Deregulation

Outcome/Program: 1/1.1 Budget

Topic: Irregular Maritime Arrivals

Senator: Ryan, Cormann, Mason

Question reference number: 12, 14 & 15

Type of question: Hansard, F&PA Committee, Page 63-64, 29 May 2013

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 28 June 2013

Number of pages: 1

Question:

- a) Is it possible to get a unit cost for different categories of how people are treated after arrival?
- b) What assumptions were used for the unit cost of 13,200 IMAs expected in 2013-14?
- c) Could you share figures used for estimates of unit costs?

Answer:

- a) There is significant uncertainty associated with estimating a unit cost for different categories of Irregular Maritime Arrivals. Costs are driven by a range of variables such as: the number of arrivals, the number and mix of processing and detention facilities utilised, the occupancy levels of the various facilities, health, interpreter and other service levels, the nature of detention, average processing times and processing outcomes.

The model is not structured to generate a cost per person/arrival for IMAs. In line with assumptions on the range of variables, costs are determined based on aggregate caseloads and flows through the processing system. There are fixed and variable elements to many cost items, many of which are specific to particular detention centres, and even the fixed costs fluctuate across a range of caseload levels.

- b) See above.
- c) See above.