

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 9 FEBRUARY 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(59) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Barnett (L&C 113) asked:

Advise the number of people going in and the number of people in going out in the last calendar year in those 54 charters. What is the cost (1) for the 2009 financial year for the charters and (2) what is the cost on average per charter?

Answer:

In the 2009 calendar year a total of 54 charter aircraft were procured by the Department to support the processing of irregular maritime arrivals. These charters carried a total of 1498 people to Christmas Island and 2649 people off Christmas Island, including Government officials, irregular maritime arrival clients and other agency staff as required.

From 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009, 32 charters were procured by the Department to support the processing of irregular maritime arrivals at a cost of \$2,675,560. The average cost per charter was \$83,611.