

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 21 FEBRUARY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(316) Program 4.2: Onshore Detention Network

Senator Cash asked:

In relation to the security concern of the family who were transferred to Sydney. Are they still in Villawood Detention Centre? What was the cost of transporting the family to Villawood from Christmas Island and what is the cost of keeping them detained in the community housing facility at Villawood? How long have they been there? How long will they remain? What is the cost of providing guards to escort the eldest child to school?

Answer:

The family transferred from Christmas Island to Sydney on 13 August 2010 for the birth of their third child remain in Sydney at the Immigration Residential Housing facility. The charter cost for the family, 20 other clients and staff was \$172 122.

The cost of static guards at the family's accommodation for the three months November 2010 to February 2011 was \$428 861.

At this stage there has been no action taken to return the family to Christmas Island.

This child is escorted to and from school along with other children from the facility. The costs associated with providing escorts for this child are equivalent to the other children.