

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

### **ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012**

#### **IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO**

#### **(AE12/0333) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management**

Senator Cash asked:

With reference to the following statement in MYEFO: “onshore processing costs related to irregular maritime arrivals, are expected to increase by \$1.3 billion over four years as a result of an increase in expected arrival rates compared to those at Budget. This is partly offset by \$1.1 billion in reduced costs and savings associated with not progressing offshore processing arrangements at this time, leaving a net impact on the budget of \$197 million over four years”. Given that the Department budgeted more than \$1 billion for just 750 arrivals in 2011-12 and almost 3,500 have arrived to date in this financial year, what will be the additional cost of the government’s border protection failures this year?

*Answer:*

The expense estimate announced in the 2011-12 Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements for Program 4.3 Offshore Asylum Seeker Management for the 2011-12 financial year has increased by \$120.024 million to \$1 150.550 million, excluding depreciation.