

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE12/0402) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash asked:

Are tours of Christmas Island or similar outings part of the activity program for detainees on the island? What do these involve? How much do these cost?

Answer:

Yes, in accordance with the services contract, Serco facilitates a schedule of programs and activities, to enhance the mental health and wellbeing of clients. Participation in programs and activities is voluntary.

Excursions form an important part of the programs and activities schedules on Christmas Island. An excursion of the island is one of these regular activities. Other activities include trips to the local swimming pool and opportunities for clients to attend religious observance at a local mosque.

The costs associated with excursions form part of the overall client costs and an individual breakdown is not available.