

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE12/0427) Program 4.3: Offshore asylum seeker management

Senator Cash asked:

How long does the department believe that these people will remain in this accommodation? At what cost per dwelling?

Answer:

The time that clients remain in their accommodation is determined generally by the length of the status resolution process of each individual client. This can sometimes be a lengthy process and the timeframe differs from one client to another.

The cost of a dwelling reduces over time as the number of clients transitioning through the property increases because utilities and household formation packages are already in place.

The cost of dwellings is determined by various factors, including the Australian rental market, utility costs in each state and territory, the size of the property, composition of clients residing there, and the cost of the household formation packages (which varies depending on family composition). As such, the Department does not have an average overall cost of community detention dwellings.