

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE12/0430) Program 4.3: Offshore asylum seeker management

Senator Cash asked:

Senate Estimates Answer to Question SE11/0320 [Oct estimates] states that “the Department is also continuing to place a small but steady flow of single, vulnerable, adult men in community detention”. How many single adult men have been placed in community detention? Where are they? In what kind of accommodation? Are they supervised? How many are allowed to reside in each dwelling? Has the department been made aware of incidents where lease conditions have been breached where too many people are residing in a single dwelling?

Answer:

Between 18 October 2010 when the Community Detention program was expanded and 13 February 2012, 331 single adult males (irregular maritime arrivals) had been approved for community detention.

As at 13 February 2012, 306 were residing in community detention and a further 12 were awaiting transfer into community-based accommodation.

Most single adult men are accommodated in shared houses sourced from the private rental market. To date, community detention clients have primarily been placed in suburbs and communities in major capital cities across Australia, including in NSW, Victoria, South Australia, Queensland, Western Australia, ACT and Tasmania. Specific locations of community detention placements are not made public for privacy reasons.

Adult clients are not ‘supervised’ as such but the Department’s case managers, as well as the service providers’ case workers remain in close and regular contact with all clients.

The number of single adult men who can reside in a property is generally determined by the terms of the lease and relevant tenancy laws.

The Department is not aware of any instance where lease conditions have been breached because too many people were residing in one dwelling.