

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE12/0488) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Pratt (L&CA 111) asked:

In relation to air and sea freight costs for Nauru, how much does it cost to transfer people and how much does that contribute to a running cost? That would include asylum seekers and detainees, but clearly staff movements as well.

Answer:

The cost of charter services to Nauru varies according to the point of embarkation. At present, advice to the Department indicates that flights from the east coast and Darwin average approximately \$90 000. A charter flight from Christmas Island is likely to cost approximately \$140 000.

These costs are for approximately 100 people and do not include freight.

Additional costs would be incurred for escort staff and interpreters.

A commercial booking from Brisbane is currently in the order of \$900-\$2000 for a return economy seat.

The impact these costs would have on total operational costs would vary depending on client and staff movements.