

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES - 25 FEBRUARY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE14/077) PROGRAMME – Internal Product

Senator Carr (L&CA 98-99) asked:

Senator KIM CARR: Would you provide a breakdown on notice of the flights made between 7 September 2013—where the flights have originated from; the destinations of flights; what refuelling occurred; the passenger capacity of each aircraft; how many flight staff—DIBP staff and others that are on each flight, and from which agency; the flight schedule; and how many flights per week, day or month have been undertaken since.

Mr M Cahill: I will, Senator, just noting that details such as refuelling are details that I may not have. But in the main, in terms of flight movements and the passenger loads, I should be able to get those answers for you.

Answer:

During the period 7 September 2014 to 28 February 2014, the department conducted 61 transfer operations from Christmas Island to Offshore Processing Centres (OPC) Nauru and Manus Island. Of these 61 flights, 34 were to OPC Nauru and 27 to OPC Manus. The number of flights per week ranged from one to five.

All flights originated from Christmas Island, and all but one transited through Darwin en route. Some flights also transited Port Moresby or Cairns.

Refuelling may have been facilitated at any combination of Darwin, Port Hedland, Christmas Island, Cairns, Port Moresby and/or Nauru as necessary, depending on the available fuel at each location, the flight path, and the range of the relevant aircraft.

The three aircraft conducting OPC transfers have maximum seating capacities of 120, 120 and 138 passengers.

Each transfer flight involves an appropriately sized contingent of security escorts (Serco) depending on the number of transferees on board. A small number of AFP officers and an IHMS nurse escort also accompany each transfer. The airline flight crew comprises between seven and nine persons.