

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 22 May 2006**

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

### **(219) Output 1.3: Enforcement of Immigration Law**

Senator Ludwig asked:

What is the total cost so far to the Commonwealth for sending the 43 Papuan asylum seekers from the mainland to Christmas Island, including the costs associated with:

- a. Migration agents.
- b. Lawyers.
- c. All medical costs (including transfers to mainland).
- d. All air travel for detainees and staff (including any consultants and contractors).
- e. Security.
- f. Staff.
- g. All Government Department and agency costs.

*Answer:*

- a. Migration agents.

The migration agents have not yet completed their work assisting the group. The total cost of their assistance for the group is not yet available.

- b. Lawyers.

There was no litigation associated with the transfer of the 43 Papuan Asylum seekers from the mainland to Christmas Island and hence there was no litigation cost.

- c. - e.

The cost of running Christmas Island IDF in the period the 43 Papuans were on Christmas Island was approximately \$2.2M. For those detained in residence determination arrangements on Christmas Island an additional cost of approximately \$111,000 was incurred. DIMA does not separate the costs for various caseloads in detention and, therefore, cannot provide the break down of costs as requested.

- f. Staff.

Direct DIMA staff costs for the period the 43 Papuans were on Christmas Island was approximately \$139,000.

- g.

DIMA does not have access to costs of other departments and agencies