

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 22 May 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(238) Output 1.3: Enforcement of Immigration Law

Senator Nettle asked:

In an answer to Question on Notice number 38, February 2004 Estimates, the department provided a table of the cost of detention per detainee per day of various detention facilities. Provide a similar table for all detention facilities currently in use by DIMA, including those processing people off-shore.

Answer:

Your question asked for all detention facilities, including those offshore. The only offshore detention centre is Christmas Island. Nauru and Manus Island are offshore processing centres, not detention centres.

Table 1

Facility	Cost per Detainee Day
Villawood	\$238
Maribyrnong	\$303
Perth	\$575
Baxter	\$310
Darwin	\$580
Port Augusta Residential Housing	\$1129

Table 1 provides the cost per detainee day, calculated by dividing total costs by the number of detainees. This results in unit costs being significantly influenced by occupancy rates for each detention centre.

Table 2

Facility	Cost per Detainee Day
Christmas Island	\$1830

In Table 2, the Christmas Island facility, the cost includes keeping the centre in contingency, that is, keeping the facility at a high state of readiness. In 2006-07, a review of costing methodology for Christmas Island is being undertaken with an intention of setting actual cost for the detainee, aligned with actual occupancy.