

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 28 MAY 2009**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

### **(53) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management**

Senator Fierravanti-Wells (L&CA 71-72) asked

Provide the total amount of allowance paid since August 2008 to those in Community Detention on Christmas Island. Include housing, school and childcare costs, other costs and entitlements.

*Answer:*

Community Detention arrangements were determined under the previous Government after the program's implementation in 2005 and people in Community Detention on Christmas Island are allocated allowances in accordance with these arrangements.

During the period 1 August 2008 to 15 May 2009, 98 people were placed into Community Detention on Christmas Island for a cumulative total of 7,297 days.

During this period the payment of allowances to people in Community Detention has been managed through three service providers:

Families South Australia  
Life Without Barriers  
Red Cross

For the period August 2008 to May 2009, based on invoices received and monies paid, the Department spent \$129,864.51 in allowances. The vast majority of these allowances were allocated as store credit for people to purchase food and other necessities.

The Department is currently reviewing the allocation of allowances to people in Community Detention on Christmas Island to ensure it is in line with community expectations.