

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27 May 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(73) Program: 4.3 Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Barnett and Senator Humphries asked:

In relation to the \$327 million in administered expenses for 2010-2011, what is the average occupancy rate, the average length of stay in detention and the average cost of the accommodation?

Answer:

The average IMA occupancy estimated for Christmas Island in 2010-11 is 1800.

The current average length of stay in detention on Christmas Island is 110 days.

The Administered and Departmental costs relating to the operation on Christmas Island as of 30 April 2010 for the financial year 2009-10 was \$146.1million. However it should be noted that the costs for the financial year are based upon the total occupancy of IMAs, not the average IMA occupancy rate. The average occupancy rate does not reflect the arrival numbers of new IMAs or the departures of IMAs having either been processed or moved onshore.

As a result, determining an accurate average cost per IMA is not appropriate given the complexity involved in each particular set of circumstances.