

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

### **BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 24 MAY 2011**

#### **IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO**

#### **(BE11/0490) Program 4.2: Onshore Detention Network**

Senator Cash (L&CA 87-88) asked:

With reference to question 316 from the February 2011 estimates in relation to the family who were transferred to Sydney, what was the secure environment in which they were held when they were on Christmas Island?

*Answer:*

On Christmas Island (CI), the family were accommodated at the Construction Camp Alternate Place of Detention, which is located about 5 kilometres from the settled areas of CI, adjacent to community recreation facilities.

The Construction Camp is a low security facility, in which people have access to a broad range of activities and excursions and are able to move about freely within the facility. In addition, the family had access to the oval at the cricket club, which is adjacent to the Construction Camp. People accommodated in the Construction Camp on CI are subject to the same processes and restrictions that are placed on people accommodated in mainland Immigration Residential Housing Facilities.

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 21 FEBRUARY 2011**

**IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO**

**(316) Program 4.2: Onshore Detention Network**

Senator Cash asked:

In relation to the security concern of the family who were transferred to Sydney. Are they still in Villawood Detention Centre? What was the cost of transporting the family to Villawood from Christmas Island and what is the cost of keeping them detained in the community housing facility at Villawood? How long have they been there? How long will they remain? What is the cost of providing guards to escort the eldest child to school?

Answer:

The family transferred from Christmas Island to Sydney on 13 August 2010 for the birth of their third child remain in Sydney at the Immigration Residential Housing facility. The charter cost for the family, 20 other clients and staff was \$172 122.

The cost of static guards at the family's accommodation for the three months November 2010 to February 2011 was \$428 861.

At this stage there has been no action taken to return the family to Christmas Island.

This child is escorted to and from school along with other children from the facility. The costs associated with providing escorts for this child are equivalent to the other children.