

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 MAY 2012

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

#### **(BE12/0075) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management**

Senator Cash asked:

What has been the cost of operating the detention facilities at Scherger in 2011-12? Please provide a breakdown of those costs including capital and repair costs. How many asylum seekers are currently detained there by length of time, age, gender and country of origin? How many have been released on a bridging visa; into community detention or given a permanent visa? What is the budgeted cost to maintain and operate the centre in 2012-13?

*Answer:*

It is anticipated that the Scherger direct operational costs for the 2011-12 financial year will be as follows:

<b>Item Description</b>	<b>Actual Costs (\$)</b>
Accommodation Leasing	6,141,749
Aircharter and freight	3,401,049
Detention Services	42,105,803
DIAC staff costs and allowances	3,266,847
Client Support and Health Services	14,665,556
Interpreters	4,985,816
IT, Communications, motor vehicle and property expenses	10,007,196
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>84,574,016</b>

These figures will be confirmed once the Department's 2011-12 financial statements have been completed and signed off by the Australian National Audit Office.

In addition for the financial year to 30 June 2012 there has been \$257,351 in capital expenditure. Works undertaken included:

- the purchase of furniture, furnishings, equipment; and
- fire safety upgrade.

Ongoing maintenance and repair costs are included in the IT, Communications, motor vehicle and property expenses category in the table above.

The budget estimate of costs for the care and management of Irregular Maritime Arrivals for the 2012-13 financial year is \$1,003 million – see page 57 of the 2012-13 Portfolio Budget Statements. This covers costs beyond the operation of the Scherger detention facilities.

As at close of business 21 May 2012:

- The number of Irregular Maritime Arrivals (IMAs) accommodated in Scherger IDC was 419.

Below is a breakdown by length of time in detention, age, gender and country of origin.

Time in detention	Number
0 to 90 days	114
91 to 180 days	304
181 to 270 days	-
271 to 360 days	-
365 + days	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>419</b>

Age group	Number
0 to 17 years	-
18 to 25 years	147
26 to 35 years	190
36 to 45 years	55
46+ years	27
<b>Total</b>	<b>419</b>

Gender	Number
Adult Male	419
Adult Female	-
Accompanied Minor	-
Unaccompanied Minor	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>419</b>

Nationality	Number
Afghanistan	104
Sri Lanka	197
Pakistan	62
Claimed Stateless	15
Other	41
<b>Total</b>	<b>419</b>

During the period 10 February 2011 to close of business 21 May 2012:

- 28 IMAs were placed into community detention from Scherger IDC;
- 467 IMAs were released on protection visas from Scherger IDC; and
- 132 IMAs were released from Curtin IDC Immigration detention facilities on a bridging visa.

Data relating to location of clients prior to release is not readily accessible before 10 February 2011.