

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 21-22 MAY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE12/0466) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash asked:

Christmas Island: What was the cost of transporting asylum seekers (including the use of charter aircraft and buses, cars etc) to and from the centre, including as a result of transfer from another centre, transfers for health and other appointments and outings? Please provide a breakdown of costs including the number of people involved for 2011-12. What are the budgeted costs for 2012-13?

Answer:

The costs for transporting asylum seekers on Christmas Island are presented below. These costs are for the period 1 July 2011 to 31 May 2012.

Category	Costs
Escorts	\$7 783 836
Travel	\$8 297 506
Charter	\$17 172 421
TOTAL	\$33 253 763

Information about client numbers relating to Transport and Escorts is not readily available and an unreasonable degree of effort would be required to extract this information from supporting paperwork for invoices.

Cost estimates in respect of Irregular Maritime Arrivals (IMAs) are complex and dynamic. They are influenced by a range of factors including the number and rate of arrivals, processing time, rejection rates, the number of families or unaccompanied minors and the detention accommodation footprint.

The Department does not prepare budget estimates for the care and management of IMAs at a level of detail that separately identifies the various forms and costs of client transportation by facility.