

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 31 May 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE13/0372) PROGRAM – 4.2: Onshore Detention Network

Senator Cash (L&CA Written) asked:

What has been the cost of operating the detention facilities at Scherger, in 2011-12 and 2012-13 to date? 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 was the budgeted cost to maintain and operate the centre in 2012-13?

Answer:

The total operating cost of detention at Scherger from 1 July 2012 to 31 May 2013 was \$83.94 million.

The table below details Scherger costs for the period from 1 July 2012 to 31 May 2013:

Service	Amount
Detention Services (Serco)	\$68,718,670
Property (lease & maintenance)	\$8,839,588
Staff Costs (DIAC)	\$5,314,142
IT & Communications	\$447,441
Motor Vehicle	\$191,015
Community Based Support Services	\$427,550
TOTAL	\$83,938,406

There has been \$30,246 in capital expenditure from 1 July 2012 to 31 May 2013. Works undertaken included the purchase of furniture, furnishings and equipment and upgrades to fire safety equipment.

Ongoing maintenance and repair costs are included in the IT & Communications, Motor Vehicle and Property expenditure listed in the above table.

The total operating cost of detention at Scherger from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 was \$85.47 million.

The table below details Scherger costs for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012:

Service	Amount
Detention Services (Serco)	\$65,158,224
Staff Costs (DIAC)	\$3,266,847
Property (lease & maintenance)	\$6,141,749
Other	*\$10,007,196
TOTAL	\$85,470,016

* Includes property costs, IT & telecommunications and motor vehicle expenses.

There was \$257,351 in capital expenditure in the 2011-12 financial year. Works undertaken included the purchase of furniture, furnishings and equipment and upgrades to fire safety equipment.

Ongoing maintenance and repair costs are included in 'Other' in the above table.

As at close of business 28 May 2013:

The number of Irregular Maritime Arrivals (IMAs) accommodated in Scherger was 348.

Time in Detention	Number
0 to 90 days	180
91 + days	168
TOTAL	348

Age Group	Number
0 to 17 Years	0
18 to 35 Years	305
36 + years	43
TOTAL	348

Gender	Number
Male	348
Female	0
TOTAL	348

Nationality	Number
BANGLADESH	99
MYANMAR	8
SRI LANKA	97
CLAIMED STATELESS	73
VIETNAM	71
TOTAL	348

During the period 1 July 2012 to close of business 28 May 2013:

- 2,099 IMAs were released from Scherger on Bridging Visas;
- 9 IMAs were placed into community detention from Scherger; and
- 16 IMAs were released on Protection Visas from Scherger.

The budgeted costs to maintain and operate the centre are a component of the total funding provided for the care and management of IMAs. The budget for IMAs is developed using a financial estimates model based on IMA arrivals and average occupancy rates across all forms of immigration detention throughout the year. Estimates are regularly reviewed as part of the Budget process and are dependent on client arrival rates, the client cohort and average occupancy numbers in all placement options.