

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27-28 May 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE13/0390) PROGRAM – 4.2: Onshore Detention Network

Senator Cash (Written) asked:

What was the cost of transporting asylum seekers (including the use of charter aircraft and buses, cars etc) to and from the centre [Pontville], 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 and 2012-13.

Answer:

The cost for transporting asylum seekers out of the Pontville immigration detention facility for 2011-12 and 2012-13 as at 31 May 2013 is:

Category	FY 11/12 Costs	FY 12/13 to 31 May Costs
Commercial Travel	\$271,474	\$58,356
Charter	\$798,313	\$0
TOTAL	\$1,069,787	\$58,356

The reported expenses reflect flights transferring clients between facilities, and to and from medical and legal appointments, as well as travel to destinations in the community.

Local outings are provided by our contracted service providers. Associated costs are covered by larger contractual arrangements.

Costs for transporting asylum seekers into the facilities are not recorded as this is reflected in the outgoing costs for the facility they have been transferred from.

The very detailed information sought is not readily available in consolidated form and it would be a major task to collect and assemble it. The department is not in a position to dedicate the considerable resources required to collate this information.

A budget estimate for 2012-2013 for specific transfers into and out of Pontville is not available.