

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27-28 May 2013

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

#### **(BE13/0555) PROGRAM – 4.2: Onshore Detention Network**

Senator Hanson-Young (Written) asked:

Could DIAC provide for the year 2012-13 and for each year in the forward estimates period the numbers of (a) adults and (b) children, and the unit cost of processing and supporting: (a) People seeking asylum in Australia who are in mandatory detention in offshore processing centres, (b) People seeking asylum in Australia who are in mandatory detention on Nauru, (c) People seeking asylum in Australia who are in mandatory detention on Manus Island, (d) People seeking asylum in Australia who are in the Community Detention Program with disaggregated unit costs for unaccompanied minors, families with children, and individual adults, (e) People seeking asylum in Australia who have been granted bridging visas with disaggregated unit costs for unaccompanied minors, families with children, and individual adults

*Answer:*

The modelling utilised by the Department in developing financial estimates for the care and management of Irregular Maritime Arrivals (IMAs) is not premised on a unit cost for specific client cohorts. Rather, it is a complex model, based on IMA arrivals and average occupancy rates across all placement options throughout the year and with consideration to variables such as:

- Length of stay;
- Where the client is detained and the costs associated with that facility;
- Health issues and therefore the health care required;
- The need for interpreters;
- Escort costs;
- Transport costs;
- Costs associated with any appeals;
- Security costs/issues;
- Immigration Advice & Application Assistance Scheme (IAAAS) costs; and
- External service provider costs.

The estimated cost for the care and management of IMAs in the 2012–13 financial year is \$2.1 billion, as per page 55 of the 2013–14 Portfolio Budget Statements.

Estimates are regularly reviewed as part of the Budget process.