

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 27-28 May 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE13/0575) PROGRAM – 4.2: Onshore Detention Network

Senator Cash (written) asked:

Senator CASH: Perhaps I could go back now to the enhanced accommodation capacity at the Curtin detention centre. What are the capital costs of transforming Curtin into an APOD? And what work has been undertaken to date to do that?

Mr Douglas: The electronic fences have been disabled. There is a range of adjustments being made to, for example, increase covered areas, walkways and dining rooms and to make sure the centre is safe for children—avoiding tripping hazards and the like. That work is underway. At this stage we do not have enough information in to give an estimate of the expenditure that is going to be incurred for that.

Senator CASH: Is there any form of estimate as to what the expenditure might be?

Mr Douglas: I would prefer to take that on notice.

Answer:

Facilities in the detention network are reviewed on an ongoing basis to ensure that they are fit for purpose and adjustments made as necessary to reflect changing client populations and needs.

Minor adjustments were made at Curtin Immigration Detention Centre in order to designate a section of it as an Alternative Place of Detention. These adjustments were part of the business as usual review and modification of facilities and did not incur additional cost above ordinary operating expenses.

As at 28 May 2013, quotes were being sourced for additional minor modifications and additions to the site such as playground equipment.