

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS: -27-28 May 2013**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

**(BE13/0576) PROGRAM – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management**

Senator Cash (written) asked:

Mr Cahill: ... I note that there are some Indonesian crew in some elements of the APODs on Christmas Island. There are 13 crew. That might be because they are unaccompanied minors. My understanding is that they are kept in an element, but I would have to confirm it. Yes, according to these statistics, I have 13 Indonesian crew spread across a couple of different compounds at the alternative places of detention.

Senator CASH: Could you take a question on notice in relation to those 13 crew. I wanted to know why crew members are being housed at Christmas Island in the same section as families. You said it may well be because some of them are minors. Could you take it on notice to tell me who they are and how old they are?

Mr Cahill: I will endeavour to get whatever information I can. I will do that as of certain date, because obviously clients move.

*Answer:*

As at close of business 27 May 2013, there were 16 Indonesian crew members accommodated in Alternative Places of Detention on Christmas Island. Of these, two were considered by the Department to be minors and the remaining 14 crew members were being managed as adults. The Department can confirm that there were clients in family groups accommodated in the Alternative Places of Detention at the same time as the Indonesian crew.

Client placement decisions are made on a case by case basis taking into account a number of dynamic factors, including client health and welfare, familial links, age and cultural considerations, security information and intelligence and status resolution pathways. All client placement decisions take into account the professional advice of the Detention Service Providers, Serco and International Health and Medical Services.