

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 15 October 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE12/0493) PROGRAM – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

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 Scherger, 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. What are the budgeted costs for 2012-13?

Answer:

The costs for transporting asylum seekers out of the Scherger Immigration Detention Facility are presented below. These costs are for the 2011-2012 financial year.

Category	Cost
Commercial Travel	\$1 034 718
Charter	\$239 091
TOTAL	\$1 273 809

The reported expenses reflect flights transferring clients between centres, and to and from medical and legal appointments, as well as flights, trains and buses to final settlement destinations.

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

Costs for transporting asylum seekers into the centres are not officially recorded as this is reflected in the outgoing costs for the centre they had been transferred from.

Information relating to client and escort numbers is not readily available for the 2011-2012 financial year.

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