

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 15 October 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE12/0625) PROGRAM – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash asked:

Christmas Island: How many asylum seekers are currently detained there by length of time, age, gender and country of origin? How many have been released on a bridging visa; into community detention or given a permanent visa? What is the budgeted cost to maintain and operate the centre in 2012-13?

Answer:

As at 15 October 2012:

Time in detention	Number
0 to 90 days	2362
91 + days	0
Total	2362

Age group	Number
0 to 17 years	362
18 to 35 years	1545
36 + years	455
Total	2362

Gender	Number
Male	2051
Female	311
Total	2362

Nationality	Number
Afghanistan	283
Sri Lanka	1123
Pakistan	101
Iran	473
Iraq	175
Other	207
Total	2362

According to DIAC operational data*;

During the period 20 December 2011 to cob 15 October 2012:

- 55 IMAs were placed in the community under residence determination on the Australian mainland from Christmas Island Immigration Detention facilities (IDFs);
- 54 IMAs were released on protection visas directly from Christmas Island IDFs; and
- 61 IMAs were released on a bridging visa from Christmas Island IDFs.

* Data relating to the location of clients prior to release is not readily accessible before 20 December 2011.

There is no specific budget allocated for Christmas Island IDFs in the 2012-13 financial year. These costs are a component of the total funding provided for the care and management of IMAs, which is provided on a 'no win/no loss' basis. The budget for IMAs is developed using a financial estimates model based on IMA arrivals and average occupancy rates across all forms of immigration detention throughout the year.