

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 23 February 2015**

**IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO**

**(AE15/092) - IAAAS Scheme - Programme 1.2 Visa and Citizenship (Administered)**

Senator Macdonald, Ian (L&CA) written:

1. What exactly was the IAAAS scheme?
2. To whom was assistance made available under this scheme - who were the "people living in the community, in hardship" described in the Department's answer to Question On Notice SE14/009?
3. Who made the decision as to who was eligible for assistance as a person "...living in the community, in hardship"?
4. Who made the decision on the amount of the payment that would be made?
5. Who were the parties to the "limited contractual arrangements" described in the Department's answer to Question On Notice SE14/009?
6. On cessation of the assistance on 31.03.2014, has there been any appreciable reduction in the number of migration agents seeking registration or in the number being de-registered?  
To put it another way: What was the annual registration of migration agents prior to 31.03.2014 and what has been the average figure since? Please also advise similarly for the de-registration of migration agents.

*Answer:*

1. The Immigration Advice and Application Assistance Scheme (IAAAS) provides free, professional migration advice and visa application assistance to people who have arrived lawfully in Australia. The services are provided by Registered Migration Agents working for contracted IAAAS providers. Providers were selected in an open tender process completed in 2011.
2. People living in the community must meet eligibility criteria for IAAAS. These include financial hardship and disadvantage in being able to lodge an application, such as limited English language proficiency. Applicants residing in the community can receive IAAAS application assistance in regard to the lodgment of an application for any onshore visa. Legal arrivals in Immigration Detention do not have to meet any eligibility criteria to receive IAAAS. Their use of IAAAS application assistance is limited to the lodgment of an application for a Protection Visa. On 31 March 2014, IAAAS was removed for illegal arrivals and for assistance at the merits review stage of an application.
3. The contracted IAAAS service provider makes the decision based on guidance provided by the Department.

4. There is no payment made to the recipient of IAAAS services. There are agreed fees for service with each contracted service provider under IAAAS. These amounts were individually agreed to following an open procurement process, conducted by the Department through Austender in 2011.

5. A list of IAAAS service providers is attached at Attachment A.

6. There is no discernible change in migration agent numbers. The number of registered migration agents has increased steadily for several years at the rate of 5 to 6% per annum as outlined below.

31/12/12	31/3/13	30/6/13	30/9/13	31/12/13	31/3/14	30/6/14	30/9/14	31/12/14
4,791	4,857	4,899	5,026	5,118	5,161	5,212	5,329	5,452

The number of agents whose registration ceased for any reason is as follows:

2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	1/7/14 - 31/12/14
474	503	474	261

AE15/092 ATTACHMENT A: List of IAAAS Providers

<b>State</b>	<b>IAAAS Service Provider</b>
<b>NSW</b>	Craddock Murray Neumann
	Legal Aid Commission of NSW
	Refugee Advice & Casework Service [Australia] Inc. (RACS)
	Fragomen
	Playfair Visa & Migration Services
	Imm Advice & Rights Centre (IARC)
	Andronicos Law Pty Ltd
<b>VIC</b>	Vrachnas Lawyers
	PGM Migration Lawyers formerly Orana Migration Group
	MIC Eastern Melbourne
	Refugee & Immigration Legal Centre (RILC)
	BMA Lawyers – previously Florin Burhala & Associates
	Sabelberg Morcos Lawyers
<b>QLD</b>	Ref & Imm Legal Service (RAILS)
<b>WA</b>	Centrecare Inc
	Metropolitan Migrant Resource Centre
	CASE for Refugees
<b>SA</b>	Australian Refugee Association (ARA)
	Legal Aid Commission of SA
	Australian Migration Options
<b>TAS</b>	MRC Northern Tasmania
<b>ACT</b>	Companion House