

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 26 – 27 MAY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE14/062) PROGRAMME – 2.3 and 2.4: Regional Cooperation

Senator Hanson-Young (L&CA 24) asked:

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Thank you. Mr Bowles, can you confirm whether the Australian government has made any payments towards the legal costs of foreign governments in respect of legal proceedings related to asylum seeker detention centres on either Nauru or Manus Island?

Mr Bowles: I would have to take the specifics on notice; but, yes, we would have.

Answer:

The Australian Government is assisting the Government of Papua New Guinea (PNG) to meet legal costs.

Since the events on 19 July 2013 at the Nauru Processing Centre, the Government has provided financial support to meet defence and prosecution legal costs relating to transferees charged with offences arising from the events.

Payments are made in accordance with the provisions of the relevant *Memorandums of Understanding between the Government of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, the Republic of Nauru and the Government of Australia.*