

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 26 – 27 MAY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE14/129) PROGRAMME – 3.5 and 3.6: Illegal Maritime Arrival (IMA) Offshore Management

Senator Hanson-Young (L&CA 90) asked:

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: I was chasing some of the questions that I put on notice earlier today, including the question around the payment of the legal costs in Manus Island and Nauru. You were going to come back to me with some amounts.

Mr Bowles: Yes. We are largely taking it on notice. I will see if I can get it. It is in the order of around \$350,000 to \$370,000 in Manus, and I do not think we have spent anything in Nauru. We might have spent a little in Nauru, but we are still trying to get the exact detail of that. I will confirm is on notice for you, but it is in that order; it is not much more than that.

Answer:

The Australian Government is assisting the Government of Papua New Guinea (PNG) to meet legal costs associated with the PNG constitutional challenges to the Manus Island Regional Processing Centre brought by Opposition Leader Belden Namah and the matters of the enforcement of basic human rights brought by Justice Cannings. From 1 July 2013 to 31 May 2014, the government has paid a total of 653 052.94 AUD in PNG legal costs in relation to these matters. No funds were provided prior to this time.

Since the events on 19 July 2013 at the Nauru Regional Processing Centre to 31 May 2014, the government has provided financial support in the sum of 26 587.63 AUD 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 *Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea and the Government of Australia, relating to the Transfer to, and Assessment and Settlement of Persons in, Papua New Guinea of Certain Persons, and Related Issues* and the *Memorandum of Understanding between the Republic of Nauru and the Commonwealth of Australia relating to the Transfer to and Assessment of Persons in Nauru, and Related Issues*.