

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 26 – 27 MAY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE14/325) PROGRAMME – 1.2: Visa and Citizenship

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

What is the current eligibility criteria for the Asylum Seeker Assistance Scheme and the Community Assistance Support scheme support?

Answer:

The Asylum Seeker Assistance Scheme (ASAS) and Community Assistance Support (CAS) programmes are two Commonwealth initiatives designed to provide assistance to eligible persons in the community who are engaging with the department to resolve their immigration status.

Eligibility for ASAS is only extended to asylum seekers who are living lawfully in the community on bridging visas awaiting the resolution of their immigration status, who are in financial hardship and have no continuing and adequate support in the community.

Eligibility for the CAS programme is available to non-citizens living lawfully in the community on bridging visas and who have a prescribed vulnerability that prevents them from resolving their immigration status.