

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 26 May 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE15/064) - Legal Assistance - IMA's - Programme 1.4: IMA Onshore Management

Senator Macdonald, Ian (L&CA 36) asked:

CHAIR: I am going to be critical of the government, so what was previously provided in legal assistance to illegal maritime arrivals was in the order of \$3 million a year and that has now been increased to \$4.8 million—you are so generous minister. Senator Hanson-Young never gives you credit for it.

Senator KIM CARR: This is always the problem when you ask questions that you do not know the answers to.

CHAIR: Senator Carr, unlike you people, I have an independent view of these things—the government's view is not my view and if that is what the government is doing then I am critical of them.

Senator KIM CARR: You are just adding to the comedy of this whole exercise.

CHAIR: Perhaps Mr Manthorpe and Mr Kukoc you could just make sure that I am making the right comparisons—on notice.

Mr Manthorpe: Yes we will take that on notice.

Answer:

Prior to 31 March 2014, the Immigration Advice and Application Assistance Scheme (IAAAS) was available to illegal arrivals and disadvantaged authorised arrivals. From 31 March 2014, the IAAAS continues to provide immigration advice and application assistance to disadvantaged authorised arrivals.

The \$3 million referred to was the cost of assistance provided to authorised arrivals under IAAAS in 2012-13 and 2013-14.

The Primary Application Information Service (PAIS) provides application assistance to the most vulnerable illegal arrivals. The \$4.8 million referred to is the funding provided to illegal arrivals per year for three years.