

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 11 February 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE13/0285) PROGRAM – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash (Written) asked:

In relation to the Government's announcement on 13 October 2011 that asylum seekers will be released into the community on bridging visas, (a) How many people have been released under these arrangements to date, broken down by month? (b) How many of those released have been granted work rights? (c) How many have been subsequently granted a permanent visa? (d) How many are still living in the community? (e) How many have failed at all stages of review and been returned into detention? (f) How many have been returned to detention for other reasons? What are those reasons?

Answer:

- (a) As at 11 February 2013, 11 730 people who had arrived as Irregular Maritime Arrivals (IMAs) had been granted a Bridging visa E (BVE) and released into the community since the Government's announcement on 13 October 2011.

Statistics: IMA BVE grant and release statistics by month (excludes further grants)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2011											27	80
2012	150	238	596	459	442	749	611	1036	1073	1946	1113	1836
2013	1178	948										

- (b) 8 755 of the 11 730 IMAs released on a BVE had permission to work.
- (c) 3 199 of those granted a BVE had subsequently been granted a permanent visa.
- (d) As at 11 February 2013, of the 11 730 asylum seekers granted BVEs, 8 502 continue to hold BVEs.
- (e) As at 11 February 2013, departmental systems indicate that there were seven clients whose BVE had ceased and who had been returned to detention following failure at a stage of review.

- (f) Two asylum seekers were returned to detention because their bridging visas were cancelled. One was cancelled at the client's request and the other for security reasons.