

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 11 February 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE13/0287) 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, What was the actual cost of these arrangements in 2011-12 and what is the budgeted cost for 2012-13?

Answer:

Irregular Maritime Arrives (IMAs) BVE clients are eligible to receive services under the Community Assistance Support (CAS) and/or the Asylum Seeker Assistance Scheme (ASAS) programs. For the 2011–12 financial year, the total expenditure in respect of IMAs in the community on a Bridging Visa E was \$23 991 405, this amount includes departmental costs of \$1 057 076.

These costs are a component of the total Budget appropriation funding provided for the care and management of IMAs. The budget for IMAs is developed using a financial estimates model based on IMA arrivals and average occupancy rates across all forms of immigration detention throughout the year. Estimates are regularly reviewed as part of the Budget process and are dependent on client arrival rates, the client cohort and average occupancy numbers in all placement options.