

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 11 February 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE13/0290) PROGRAM – 4.1: Visa Compliance and Status Resolution

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 are the language skills of this cohort? Are they eligible for English language tuition? Are they given job search assistance?

Answer:

The English proficiency of asylum seekers released into the community on bridging visas varies based on the asylum seeker's experience and educational background.

Asylum seekers on bridging visas have access to English as a Second Language (ESL) classes and, for those asylum seekers with work rights access to job search assistance (Stream 1) under the Asylum Seeker Assistance Scheme (ASAS) or the Community Assistance Support (CAS) program. ESL classes and job search assistance is facilitated through the service provider.