

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27-28 May 2013**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

**(BE13/0074) PROGRAM –**

Senator Cash (L&CA 13) asked:

Senator CASH: Mr Bowles, the asylum seekers are quite literally told they cannot lodge a claim for asylum?

Mr Bowles: They are told a range of things. I will see if we can get the people with the fact sheet. We will give them fact sheets. We will give them a whole range of data. But, ultimately, yes, they are told we are going to assess their claims yet and we will determine when we do that. As I said, that will be soon. We are planning that in the 2013-14 financial year. We will go down those lines.

*Answer:*

Any Irregular Maritime Arrival who arrives at an offshore entry place is told that they are barred from making a valid Protection visa application under the *Migration Act 1958* unless the Minister decides it is in the public interest to allow them to do so.