

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

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

#### **IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO**

#### **(BE13/0084) PROGRAM – 4.1: Visa Compliance and Status Resolution**

Senator Rhiannon (L&CA 22-23) asked:

Senator RHIANNON: Let's take basic English. You are saying you give that money to the person and not to a centre or a non-government organisation to run English courses for asylum seekers?

Mr Bowles: We do not give it to the centres is my understanding. It is through the CAS and ASAS payments process, as I have described.

Senator RHIANNON: So the CAS and ASAS payments go to individuals and never go to a learning centre or a non-government organisation?

Mr Bowles: Again, it is through the CAS and ASAS payments. It is not something we direct to generic programs or specific organisations to deliver on our behalf.

Senator RHIANNON: Or to companies that run English learning centres?

Mr Bowles: That is my understanding, yes.

Senator RHIANNON: Do you need to take that on notice?

Mr Bowles: I can confirm it on notice, if you wish.

*Answer:*

CAS/ASAS providers provide income support payments to Irregular Maritime Arrivals. They also encourage clients to undertake access to 45 hours of English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, which are provided by Adult Migrant English Program providers who are funded separately by the Department.