

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27-28 May 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE13/0200) PROGRAM – 5.1: Settlement Services for Migrants and Refugees

Senator Cash (L&CA 118) asked:

Senator CASH: In relation to outcome 5, does the department have a ballpark figure for the number of providers who are now assisting with sourcing housing and support services for asylum seekers released under the bridging visa program and genuine refugees entering refugees resettlement program?

Ms Finney: In relation to the second part of your question on resettlement, we have providers who under the IHSS scheme provide accommodation assistance for all entrants who hold a permanent visa. As to the number of providers, we have 27 contract areas and 18 providers. I will take that on notice and confirm that. It might be 19 providers covering a large number of areas—about 27—but that is the ballpark figure of providers.

Answer: There are seven service providers assisting asylum seekers released under the Bridging visa program.

There are 18 service providers across 24 contract regions assisting refugees under the Humanitarian Settlement Services program.