

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

### **SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 17 OCTOBER 2011**

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

#### **(SE11/0255) Program 4.1: Visa Compliance and Status Resolution**

Senator Cash (L&CA 79) asked:

Upon what basis do you believe that failed asylum seekers will have the ability to hold down a job when they are given work rights, given that the evidence that has been presented at May's estimates shows that 83.5 per cent are still unemployed after 5 years?

*Answer:*

The evidence presented at the May Estimates referred to a figure in the 'Settlement Outcomes of New Arrivals' (SONA) report on how many humanitarian households are in receipt of Centrelink payments. This figure has been incorrectly interpreted as an 83.5 per cent unemployment rate. The 83.5 per cent figure in the SONA report reflects that anyone in the households surveyed may be in receipt of a Centrelink payment, including, for example, Austudy, crisis or parenting payments, Newstart and youth allowance. In the SONA report, the average unemployment rate for the subset of the humanitarian group surveyed who had lived in Australia for four to five years is 12.6 per cent.