

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 November 2013

#### IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

#### (SE13/0027) PROGRAMME – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Hanson-Young (L&CA 59-60) asked:

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: How many people have been issued a temporary protection visas since 18 September?

Ms Larkins: Three.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Were those people previously on bridging visas?

Ms Larkins: I do not think I have that detail.

Mr Bowles: We can take that on notice. It is highly likely.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Of the 22,900 people on bridging visas, how many have work rights?

Mr Bowles: We will see if we can get that figure for you. Obviously, they are the ones before—

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: I would like to know how many have work rights, how many do not, out of the 22,900.

Mr Bowles: From memory, I think it is around a 6,000; but we will confirm that. Ms Pope is here, so she will be able to confirm that.

Ms Pope: Kate Pope, First Assistant Secretary, Community Programs and Children Division.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: If I could perhaps keep going through my questions.

Ms Pope: I can answer that straightway. Of the roughly 22,900 in the community—I am sorry; I have only got it for the number granted, not for the number that are still in the community. Of the 27,400 granted, 9,868 had work rights; 17,535 were post 13 August and did not have work rights.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: So 17,000 effectively.

Ms Pope: Yes, but some of those would not still be in the community, because that is the total number granted since November 2011. So it is 5,000 different to the number that are still in the community.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Could you take that on notice and get those updated figures.

CHAIR: I am sorry, Senator Hans-Young, your time has finished. Senator Boyce.

Ms Pope: I can take it on notice, Senator.

*Answer:*

- A total of 22 people were granted temporary protection visas after they were reintroduced on 18 October 2013. Of these, 12 previously held a Bridging Visa E (BVE).
- As at 19 November 2013, there were 22 803 illegal maritime arrivals in the community who had been granted a BVE. Of these, 5 539 were released on a bridging visa without restrictions on employment and 17 264 were released on a bridging visa that included a condition that they must not engage in work in Australia.