

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 23 February 2015**

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

**(AE15/168) - BVE - Programme 2.1 Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance  
(Administered)**

Senator Hanson-Young, Sarah (L&CA) written:

What support services are provided by the government for asylum seekers on BVEs? What services are reliant upon community groups? Do these community groups receive federal funding?

*Answer:*

The Status Resolution Support Services (SRSS) programme provides varying levels of support services depending on the asylum seeker's circumstances. Support services provided to asylum seekers on Bridging E visas are in Bands 4, 5 and 6 of the SRSS programme and recipients have access to the following support services:

- income support and rent assistance payments paid fortnightly at 89 per cent of the equivalent Centrelink Special Benefit rate;
- emergency relief provisions for eligible families;
- emergency accommodation;
- assistance to source long-term accommodation;
- orientation into the community;
- assistance to access health services generally commensurate with the Medicare Benefits Schedule and
- mental health and counselling services (including torture and trauma).

Support services provided under Bands 4, 5 and 6 are not reliant on community groups. There are 11 contracted SRSS Providers responsible for delivering or facilitating access to support services in the community under the SRSS programme.