

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 26 – 27 MAY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE14/063) PROGRAMME – 2.3 and 2.4: Regional Cooperation

Senator Hanson-Young (L&CA 24) asked:

Mr Bowles: We would have made payments to the PNG government or a party in relation to that and others, I would imagine.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Do we have any idea how much money that has cost?

Mr Bowles: I can take it on notice. I cannot recall exact amounts of how much we paid now, but it would not be insignificant.

Answer:

From 1 July 2013 to 31 May 2014, the government has paid a total of 653 052.94 AUD in PNG legal costs in relation to these matters. No funds were provided prior to this time.

Payments are made in accordance with the provisions of the *Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea and the Government of Australia, relating to the Transfer to, and Assessment and Settlement of Persons in, Papua New Guinea of Certain Persons, and Related Issues.*