

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 26 – 27 MAY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE14/064) PROGRAMME – 2.3 and 2.4: Regional Cooperation

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

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: How about the legal costs associated with the Justice Canning's inquiry?

Mr Bowles: I cannot recall if we have, but I imagine that would be the same case. It relates to Manus Island and, again, under the MOU it would not be unusual that we would assist with the funding for that.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: And you will take on notice the amount that we paid so far?

Answer:

The Australian Government has agreed to assist the Government of Papua New Guinea in relation to legal costs associated with Justice Canning's inquiries. Between 1 July 2013 and 31 May 2014, the department has provided 393 584.28 AUD for legal fees associated with the Canning's inquiries. No funds were provided prior to this time.