

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 26 – 27 MAY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE14/084) PROGRAMME – 3.3 and 3.4: Illegal Maritime Arrival (IMA) Onshore Management

Senator Hanson-Young (L&CA 49) asked:

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: [...] I want to chase up on the discussion you were just having with Senator Singh in relation to mutual obligations. Are we referring just to people on bridging visas? Or is it also people who are technically in community detention or on safe haven visas? Which groups of asylum seekers, pending their visa outcomes, are we referring to when we talk about the mutual obligation program?

Dr Southern: The pilot that we were talking about earlier will be for IMAs who are on bridging visas in the community. And eventually the third phase, which Mr Cahill was talking about, will be around extending work-for-the-dole arrangements to all IMAs who have been granted substantive temporary protection visas.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: So, not people on bridging visas?

Dr Southern: Not people in community detention, no.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Not people in community detention, but people on bridging visas?

Dr Southern: People on bridging visas. That is the group that the pilot will draw from.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: How many people is that at the moment?

Dr Southern: On bridging visas?

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Yes. Do you have that number?

Dr Southern: It is in the order of 24,000 people.

Mr Cahill: We would have to check that for you.

Answer:

As at 31 May 2014, there were 24 486 illegal maritime arrivals in the community who had been granted a Bridging E visa. Of these, 13 532 had visas which were in effect and 10 954 had visas which had ceased.