

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

**(AE120/0395) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance**

Senator Cash asked:

Given the failed asylum seekers will now have access to the RRT and the courts, what provision has been made in the budget to provide legal services to failed asylum seekers through IAAAS or any other funding arrangement? How much has been budgeted? What proportion of the failed asylum seekers who have either received a negative primary decision or a negative decision from the panel, will now have access to the RRT? How much additional funding has been provided to the RRT?

*Answer:*

There is no specific budget for the provision of IAAAS services to Irregular Maritime Arrivals (IMAs). IAAAS costs are a component of the total funding provided for the care and management of IMAs, which is provided on a "no-win/no loss" basis. The budget for IMAs is developed using financial modelling based on actual averages over time and not specific individual cost components.

IAAAS assistance ceases when the visa application has been finally determined by the Department, or relevant review tribunal, as granted or refused. IAAAS assistance is not available to those seeking judicial review.

Transitional arrangements for IMA asylum seekers to a single protection assessment process, including additional funding to the RRT, are currently under consideration by Government.