

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE12/0398) Program 4.2: Onshore Detention Network

Senator Cash asked:

Bridging visas: Have the States been consulted in relation to the health, housing and education impact of the new policy? If so when and what additional costs did they identify? Will the Commonwealth be funding those costs or providing compensation?

Answer:

Since the Government's announcement on 13 October 2011, the department has undertaken detailed and ongoing consultations with State and Territory Governments to ensure they are fully informed about the IMA BVE program. Those consultations have included details of the support arrangements provided through the department and its service providers. State and Territory Governments have not identified or provided additional costings to the department.