

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 11 February 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE13/0288) PROGRAM – 4.1: Visa Compliance and Status Resolution

Senator Cash (Written) asked:

In relation to the Government's announcement on 13 October 2011 that asylum seekers will be released into the community on bridging visas, What has been the cost of the ASA payment to asylum seekers on bridging visas in 2011-12 and 2012-13 to date? How many asylum seekers was that for?

Answer:

The cost of Asylum Seeker Assistance Scheme (ASAS) payments to IMA BVE holders in 2011-12, excluding GST, was \$7,146,692. This was for a total of 1446 clients.

The cost of ASAS payments to IMA BVE holders as at 13 March 2013 for the 2012-13, excluding GST, is \$41,959,463. This is for a total of 6897 clients.