

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 11 February 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE13/0428) PROGRAM – Internal Product

Senator Cash asked:

Provide details of how DIAC will spend the \$375 million diverted from the aid budget, in light of AusAid Director General Mr Baxter's testimony on 14 February that "in terms of the accountability, it's clear that the Department of Immigration and Citizenship is responsible for that expenditure of the reprioritised amount of the ODA budget". How will DIAC ensure this expenditure complies with the ODA guidelines for aid funding?

Answer:

The \$375 million will be spent on the support of Irregular Maritime Arrivals (IMAs) who are in the community, either on a Bridging Visa E or under a Residence Determination, during the first twelve months of their stay in Australia.

This amount includes the provision of temporary sustenance and care, food, shelter and training.

Consistent with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Development Assistance Committee (DAC) directives, the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) will only report as Official Development Assistance (ODA), eligible expenditure that relate to these clients.

Costs associated with IMAs in detention centres, or those granted permanent residency in Australia are not ODA eligible and will not be reported.

DIAC is working closely with AusAid to ensure that any expenditure reported as ODA complies with OECD DAC directives.