

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

### **BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21-22 MAY 2012**

#### **IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO**

#### **(BE12/0476) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum seeker management**

Senator Cash asked:

Are asylum seekers released on bridging visas or into the community and in receipt of a special benefits payment, required to work for that benefit in the same way that those in receipt of the Jobseeker allowance required to work for the dole?

*Answer:*

- None of the asylum seekers placed in the community receive a special benefits payment. Support provided to people released into the community on Bridging visas, including irregular maritime arrivals, is provided on an as needs basis to ensure that clients can engage in their immigration status resolution process.

In some circumstances, clients may be eligible for income support and rent assistance at 89 per cent of the equivalent Centrelink Special Benefit rate to help them secure their own sustainable accommodation. There is no requirement to work for this income support.

- In respect of clients in Community Detention: No. Clients in Community Detention remain in immigration detention and are not permitted to work.