

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27 - 28 May 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE13/0011) PROGRAM – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash (L&CA 34) asked:

Senator CASH: But, in relation to the ODA funding that we are referring to here, how much have you spent in 2012-13?

Mr Bowles: I would have to come back to you with that specifically. It depends, again, on the number of people on bridging visas in the community, but it was capped at \$375 million anyhow.

Senator CASH: It is capped at \$375 million?

Mr Bowles: Yes. At this stage, we do not think we will spend all of that \$375 million. [...]

Senator CASH: How much do you think you might spend?

Mr Bowles: I do not have a answer to that- I will have to take that on notice.

Answer:

Financial statements for 2012–13 will not be finalised until August. However, it is estimated that expenditure of \$351 million will be incurred in the support of Irregular Maritime Arrivals living in the Australian community, either under Residence Determination or on a Bridging Visa E, and reported by the Department as Official Development Assistance.