

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27 - 28 May 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE13/0013) PROGRAM – 4.1: Visa Compliance and Status Resolution

Senator Cash (L&CA 34) asked:

Senator CASH: Are payments made under the Asylum Seeker Assistance Scheme ODA reportable?

Mr Bowles: They may be part of that ODA. I would have to come back to you about that. If we are talking about the first 12 months, which will be less because they will spend some time in detention, and they will get some assistance through the department—that is sort of how it all comes together—some of it will be 'ODA-able', if you like, and some will not.

Answer:

A component of payments made to Irregular Maritime Arrivals under the Asylum Seeker Assistance Scheme (ASAS) may be reportable as Official Development Assistance (ODA), if they meet the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's directives governing the use of aid funds.

Payments which may be reportable include those which relate to the provision under ASAS of temporary care, food, shelter and basic English language during the first 12 months following arrival in Australia.