

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27 – 28 May 2013**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

**(BE13/0014) PROGRAM – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management**

Senator Cash (L&CA 35) asked:

Senator CASH: Do you have the total cost of care and sustenance provided for IMA's provided in 2012-13?

Mr Bowles: No, not off the top of my head.

Senator CASH: Are you able to find that?

Mr Bowles: It would be within the context of the CAS and ASAS budget I would presume. But, again, we will have to see if breaking down to individual line items is feasible.

*Answer:*

It is anticipated that the total cost for the care and management of Irregular Maritime Arrivals, under program 4.3 - Offshore Asylum Seeker Management for the 2012-13 financial year will be approximately \$2.1 billion.

This includes costs associated with the regional processing centres on Nauru and Manus Island, Christmas Island and all onshore placement options, together with departmental resourcing in respect of the program.

This figure will be confirmed when the Department's 2012-13 financial statements are finalised and signed off by the Australian National Audit Office.