

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

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

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

**(BE13/0073) PROGRAM –**

Senator Cash (L&CA 11) asked:

Senator CASH: I go now to the processing of claims. The figure I have is 19,048 IMAs who have arrived since 13 August. How many of those have lodged a claim for asylum?

Mr Bowles: It would be very few. I would need to take that on notice, but there would be very few because, as I have said, we have not started that processing yet.

*Answer:*

Irregular Maritime Arrivals who arrived at an excised offshore place are barred from making a valid Protection visa application under the *Migration Act 1958*. As at 28 May 2013 the Minister had chosen not to lift the bar for any post 13 August 2012 arrival to allow them to lodge a valid Protection visa application.