

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27-28 May 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE13/0176) PROGRAM – 4.1: Visa Compliance and Status Resolution

Senator Cash (L&CA 102) asked:

Senator CASH: Were any of those arrested and charged with aiding and abetting the scheme on a visa?

Mr Cahill: I understand that there are some clients who have been arrested and charged with that.

Senator CASH: And they were on visas?

Mr Cahill: That is my understanding. I will have to confirm that.

Answer:

Three Vietnamese nationals were charged with aiding and abetting seven clients in their attempt to escape the Scherger Immigration Detention Centre on 24 May 2013 contrary to s.197A of the *Migration Act 1958*. Two of the three Vietnamese nationals held valid Student visas and the other held a Bridging Visa A at the time of their arrest.