

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27-28 May 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE13/0226) PROGRAM – Internal Product

Senator Cash (Written) asked:

What was the total cost to the department of advice and assistance to Irregular Maritime Arrivals to prepare their claims and pursue any appeals on their claims in 2012-13?

Answer:

The Department funds assistance to Irregular Maritime Arrivals who are making claims for protection in Australia. The assistance is provided by registered migration agents under the Immigration Advice and Application Assistance Scheme. For the period 1 July 2012 to 31 May 2013 expenditure on advice and assistance provided to Irregular Maritime Arrivals under this scheme was \$25.206 million.

Costs associated with appeals to the courts by Irregular Maritime Arrivals are not met by the Immigration Advice and Application Assistance Scheme. However, under a scheme called the Legal Advice Scheme some Irregular Maritime Arrivals seeking judicial review in New South Wales and Western Australia receive legal advice funded by the Department. This legal advice is provided by members of a panel of independent legal practitioners and does not include legal representation before the courts. There is no specific departmental budget for this scheme and, in relation to people who have accessed the scheme, there is no specific data on Irregular Maritime Arrivals.