

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

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

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

**(BE13/0398) PROGRAM – 4.1: Visa Compliance and Status Resolution**

Senator Cash (Written) asked:

What was the estimated unemployment rate for IMA's on bridging visas used to estimate the costs of the new bridging visa programme for MYEFO? What estimate of unemployment was used for the 2012/13 Budget, and what estimate was used of the period of time taken for a person to find employment?

*Answer:*

Given the traditionally low levels of employment among asylum seekers with work rights, no estimate of the unemployment rate of IMAs on a bridging visa was used for the Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook or the 2012-13 Budget. Similarly, no estimate can be provided for the period of time taken for asylum seekers with works rights to find employment.