

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

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

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

**(BE13/0412) PROGRAM – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management**

Senator Cash (Written) asked:

Given that failed asylum seekers will now have access to the RRT and the courts, what provision has been made in the budget to provide legal services to failed asylum seekers through IAAAS or any other funding arrangement to pursue appeals in the RRT? What is the expected cost of funding RRT appeals for IMAs in 2012/13, 2013/14, 2014/15 and 2015/16?

*Answer:*

There is no specific budget allocated for IAAAS services before the RRT in the forward estimates. These costs are a component of the total funding provided for the care and management of Irregular Maritime Arrivals (IMAs). The budget for IMAs is developed using a financial estimates model based on IMA arrivals and average occupancy rates across all forms of immigration detention throughout the year. Estimates are regularly reviewed as part of the Budget process.

The services provided under IAAAS are not legal services, but take the form of advice and assistance by registered migration agents. IAAAS does not fund judicial proceedings.