

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 17 OCTOBER 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE11/0252) Program 4.1: Visa Compliance and Status Resolution

Senator Cash (L&CA 71) asked:

In relation to the benefits available to BVE 050 holders, under the Asylum Seeker Assistance Scheme, provide a breakdown of the payment structure (by amount received per week) covering formulas for client circumstances e.g. single unaccompanied adult no dependants etc?

Answer:

A Bridging visa E 050 is granted to a non-citizen to allow them to remain lawfully in the Australian community while their immigration status is being resolved. The grant of a Bridging visa E 050 does not mean the holder is automatically entitled to receive financial support under the Asylum Seeker Assistance Scheme (ASAS).

ASAS is aimed at providing support to meet the basic needs of vulnerable asylum seekers who do not have access to adequate support within the community.

Financial support is capped at 89% of the equivalent Centrelink Special Benefit. If a person who has been granted a Bridging visa E 050 is eligible for ASAS, their particular circumstances will determine the amount of financial support they are entitled to receive.

The breakdown of the ASAS financial support payments are provided in the tables in Attachment A.

Table 1. Independent adults with or without dependents

Note: An unaccompanied minor is paid at the same rate as a single adult with no dependents.

Family composition	ASAS support payment rates per week *
Single adult – no dependents	\$216.62
Single adult – with dependent(s)	\$234.33
Couple – no dependents	\$391.06
Couple – with dependent(s)	\$391.06

* These rates are calculated at 89 per cent of the equivalent Centrelink Special benefit.

Table 2. Dependent children only (Family Tax Benefit A)

Note: This is an additional payment to the adult rate if eligible.

For each dependent child	ASAS support payments for dependent children per week *
Aged under 13 years	\$73.26
13 to 15 years	\$95.25
16 to 17 years	\$23.42
18 to 20 years	\$31.40

* These rates are calculated at 89 per cent of the equivalent Centrelink Special benefit.

Table 3. Dependent children only (Family Tax Benefit B)

Note: This is an additional payment to the adult rate if eligible.

For each child	ASAS support payments for dependent children per week *
Aged under 5 years	\$68.34
Aged 5 to 15 years (or 16 to 17 years if a full time student)	\$49.46

* These rates are calculated at 89 per cent of the equivalent Centrelink Special benefit.

Table 4: Dependent children only (Youth Allowance)

Note: This is an additional payment to the adult rate if eligible.

If the client is	ASAS support payments for dependent children per week *
Single with no children, aged 16 to 17 years, and living at home	\$94.65
Single with no children, aged 18 years and over and living at home	\$113.83

* These rates are calculated at 89 per cent of the equivalent Centrelink Special benefit.

Note: If a child is eligible for the Centrelink Youth allowance, the child is not eligible for Family Tax Benefit A and B payments.