

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 17 OCTOBER 2011**

**IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO**

**(SE11/0277) Program 4.1: Visa Compliance and Status Resolution**

Senator Cash asked:

New onshore arrangements: Will asylum seekers released on a bridging visa be eligible for rental assistance? Is there a limit on the rent you will be prepared to pay to find accommodation for these people?

*Answer:*

The Community Assistance Support Program (CAS) and the Asylum Seekers Assistance Scheme (ASAS) provide financial assistance to asylum seekers, including those on BVEs, who satisfy specific eligibility criteria. The help provided depends on the client's individual needs and circumstances. It may include rental assistance at 89 per cent of the equivalent Centrelink rate.

There is no other rental assistance available.