

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 15 October 2012**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

**(SE12/0051) PROGRAM – Internal Product**

Senator Cash (written) asked:

Litigation costs: At what stage of the process does DIAC cease providing funding to advise and assist and meet the legal expenses of IMA's making applications or appealing decision in relation to their cases? When does the taxpayer stop paying their legal fees and other expenses associated with their claims?

*Answer:*

As provided in the answer to SE12/0050 the Department does not fund the legal expenses of Irregular Maritime Arrivals (IMAs) except in the limited circumstances they qualify for initial under the Legal Advice Scheme (LAS). IMAs arriving after 13 August 2012 are liable to transfer to a regional processing country unless exempted by the Minister.