

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 15 October 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE12/0553) PROGRAM – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash (written) asked:

Bridging visas: In relation to the Government's announcement on 13 October 2011 that asylum seekers will be released into the community on bridging visas; a. How many people have been released under these arrangements to date? b. How many have been subsequently granted a permanent visa? c. How many are still living in the community? d. How many have failed at all stages of review and been returned into detention? e. How many have been returned to detention for other reasons? What are those reasons?

Answer:

As at 15 October 2012:

- 6 177 irregular maritime arrivals had been granted a bridging visa since the announcement on 13 October 2011;
- 2 411 people had subsequently been granted a protection visa;
- 3 757 people were living in the community on a bridging visa;
- one client had received a negative outcome at all stages of review and was returned to detention;
- three clients had returned to detention for the following reasons:
 - one client requested his bridging visa be cancelled
 - one client had his bridging visa cancelled for security reasons
 - one client was charged with a criminal offence and returned to detention