

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 15 OCTOBER 2012**

**IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO**

**(SE12/0555) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance**

Senator Cash (written):

Bridging visas: What was the cost of bridging visa arrangements in 2011-12 and what is the budgeted cost for 2012-13?

*Answers:*

The department manages two programs which provide assistance to people who reside lawfully in the community on bridging visas. These are the Community Assistance Support (CAS) program and the Asylum Seeker Assistance Scheme (ASAS). People who hold bridging visas and access support from CAS and ASAS may be Irregular Maritime Arrivals (IMAs) or non-IMAs.

**Cost of CAS and ASAS in 2011-12**

	<b>non-IMA 2011-2012</b>	<b>IMA 2011-2012</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>CAS</b>	\$4,823,356	\$15,783,227	\$20,606,583
<b>ASAS</b>	\$11,559,648	\$7,146,692	\$18,706,340

**Budget for 2012-13**

The budget for CAS for non-IMAs under Program 4.1 for 2012-13 is \$5,241,000.

The budget for ASAS for non-IMAs under Program 2.1 for 2012-13 is \$10,929,000.

The projected budget for both CAS and ASAS for IMAs under Program 4.3 for 2012-13, cannot be provided because expenditure is determined by demand. An end of year expenditure result covering the 2012-13 financial year will be available early in the 2013-14 program year.