

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

### **BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 15 OCTOBER 2012**

#### **IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO**

#### **(SE12/0556) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance**

Senator Cash (written):

Bridging visas: What has been the cost of the ASA payment to asylum seekers on bridging visas in 2011-12 and what is the budgeted cost for 2012-13? How many asylum seekers was that for?

*Answers:*

The Asylum Seeker Assistance Scheme (ASAS) authorises expenditure for the care and support of asylum seekers in the community who are Irregular Maritime Arrivals (IMAs) and non-IMAs.

#### Cost of ASAS in 2011-12

ASAS expenditure for non-IMAs under Program 2.1 for the 2011-12 financial year was \$11,559,648.

ASAS expenditure on IMAs under Program 4.3 for the 2011-12 financial year was \$7,146,692.

During 2011-12 ASAS provided support to 4529 clients (non-IMA and IMA).

#### Budget for ASAS in 2012-13

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

The projected budget for ASAS for IMAs under Program 4.3 for 2012-13 and the out years cannot be provided because ASAS expenditure under this program 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.

During 2012-13 (to 30 September 2012) ASAS has provided support to 2489 clients (non-IMA and IMA).