

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 15 October 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE12/0558) PROGRAM – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash (written) asked:

Bridging visas: What are the language skills of this cohort? Are they eligible for English language tuition? Are they given job search assistance?

Answer:

Language proficiency of bridging visa holders is not formally assessed by the department.

Bridging visa holders have recently been provided with access to a short term English language program.

Bridging visa holders who are seeking employment are eligible for Stream 1 (limited) services through Job Services Australia.