

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 15 October 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE12/0560) PROGRAM – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash (written) asked:

Bridging visas: Have any IMA's on bridging visas been turning up at homeless shelters? How many are receiving the ASA? Has the department received any advice from the private charitable sector that asylum seekers on bridging visas are accessing their services? If so, to what extent does the department consider this a serious problem?

Answer:

Departmental officers at all levels receive feedback from community and charitable organisations, and work closely with non-government agencies to address issues affecting bridging visa clients in Australia.

The department has not received any formal advice from the private charitable sector that IMAs on Bridging visas have sought support from homeless shelters.