

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 15 October 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE12/0612) PROGRAM – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash (written) asked:

Annual Report - Community detention (pg. 223): It is stated that: 'Those [IMAs] with relatives in the community can be placed with them, where appropriate'. What impact does this have on allowances paid to the IMA? E.g. do they still receive the homestart package or part thereof? Are they still entitled to the full 89% Newstart payment and every other benefit received by IMAs under community detention program even though they are staying with relatives?

Answer:

Clients who are placed in community detention with relatives receive the same support as clients placed in accommodation sourced by community detention service providers. No adult client in community detention receives a living allowance the equivalent of 89% of Centrelink Special Benefit. That amount applies to those residing independently on a bridging visa E.

Elements of the household formation package are provided on a needs basis to clients placed in community detention with relatives.