

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 November 2013**

**IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO**

**(SE13/0390) PROGRAM –**

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

How many people on bridging visas have not had their visas renewed on expiry?

- Why have their visas not been renewed?
- How long was the period between expiry and renewal? Please detail the time periods and average time without a visa renewal.
- Why has the department not been able to renew these visas on expiry?
- How will they be dealt with upon the expiry of the bridging visa?

*Answer:*

As at 19 November 2013, 6 413 illegal maritime arrivals who had been granted bridging visas and released into the community had BVEs which had ceased. Further grants of bridging visas had not been made on expiry.

As at 19 November 2013, the average time for which IMAs had been unlawful was 73 days.

The department is putting arrangements in place for further grants of bridging visas to those whose visas have ceased, subject to them signing the code of behaviour for bridging visa holders.