

**JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON AUSTRALIA'S
IMMIGRATION DETENTION NETWORK**

Q276

Question: Can you clarify whether that is the case or not—whether Customs or Immigration officers have been exposed to TB as result of some of the IMAs having TB?

Answer: The department is not aware of any Customs or DIAC staff developing tuberculosis (TB) as a result of exposure to Irregular Maritime Arrivals (IMAs).

Clinical advice is that transmission of TB typically requires prolonged close contact with an actively infected person in a poorly ventilated area. The nature of Customs and DIAC staff contact with IMAs makes it very unlikely that they face any meaningful risk of contracting the disease.

IMAs are screened for tuberculosis and other communicable diseases upon their first arrival at a detention facility, usually at Christmas Island. If a case of active TB is found the relevant state government health unit is notified and the client will be quarantined and receive medical treatment until they cease to be infectious. Contact tracing will also be undertaken to identify other people who may have been at risk of infection and those people receive testing and treatment if required.