

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS**

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY SPOKEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee

Inquiry into Offshore processing and resettlement arrangements

Tuesday 5 May 2026

QoN Number: 1

Subject: PNG Government forensic auditing of Australian funds

Asked by: Senator David Shoebridge

Question:

Senator David Shoebridge - The PNG government have done a forensic audit, including into payments from money that was sourced from Australia that went to Chatswood PNG, a company associated with the former Deputy Prime Minister of PNG, Moses Maladina, and Mei Lin, who's now in Australia facing drug smuggling charges. The PNG government have done the forensic audit about where the Australian money has gone. Have you sought access to that forensic audit by the PNG government?

Ms Clare Sharp PSM - Senator, I think we'll need to take this on notice because I don't know the answer to that and I have not seen the report. So we'll take on notice whether we've sought access.

Answer:

In October 2023, the Papua New Guinea (PNG) Deputy Prime Minister publicly stated the PNG Government would conduct an audit into the spending of funding provided by the Australian Government under the Funding Arrangement Supporting PNG's Independent Management of the Residual Regional Processing Caseload.

The Department of Home Affairs understands that PNG undertook an internal audit of Funding Arrangement spending in late 2023. The Department was not involved in the audit and did not seek a copy of the report.

Any action in response to allegations of corruption or financial mismanagement is a matter for the PNG Government.