

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES
2 MARCH 2020**

Home Affairs Portfolio

Program 1.4: IMA Offshore Management

AE20-128 - Medical transfers and transitory persons in Australia

Senator Stirling Griff asked:

Please provide:

- The total number of transitory persons whose medical transfer has been approved and who remain in PNG.
- The total number of transitory persons whose medical transfer has been approved and who remain in Nauru.
- The number of people approved by the Minister who have not been cleared to travel to Australia by the Overseas Medical Referral Process of Nauru?
- What is the expected time frame for them to be transferred to Australia?

Answer:

- a) As at 1 March 2020, zero.
- b) As at 1 March 2020, 36 transitory persons were awaiting approval for transfer by the Government of Nauru:
 - Seven approved for temporary transfer to Australia.
 - 29 approved for temporary transfer to Taiwan and/or Papua New Guinea.
- c) Thirty-nine (39) transitory persons in Nauru were approved for temporary transfer to Australia by the Minister and were awaiting host government approval on the date of repeal. As at 1 March 2020:
 - 20 were transferred to Australia.
 - 10 were approved by the Department for temporary transfer to Taiwan and/or Papua New Guinea.
 - five were approved for temporary transfer to Australia and were awaiting host government approval.
 - three were assessed by the Department as being able to receive the required treatment on Nauru.
 - One individual resettled in a third country before transfer.
- d) Requests for medical transfer do not always involve medical emergencies, and a space of some weeks and months between a request for and the implementation of a transfer is often clinically appropriate. Where there is a medical emergency requiring urgent treatment, an air ambulance is chartered and the transfer takes place within a short timeframe, subject to the agreement of the host country.