

Question on notice no. 177

Portfolio question number: BE18/060

2018-19 Budget estimates

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, Home Affairs Portfolio

Senator Nick McKim: asked the Department of Home Affairs on 21 May 2018—

Senator McKIM: They were physically present on either a permanent or a regular basis - this is torture and trauma counsellors which I'm specifically asking about, Mr Nockels. They were present on Manus Island either permanently or on a regular basis prior to 1 November last year, and post 1 November up until today they are not present permanently or on a regular basis, are they?

Mr Nockels: I would have to check historically whether they were permanently there or cycled through on a two-week basis. I don't have that detail with me. But, yes, they were prior to 1 November.

Mr Nockels: Yes, psychologists and psychiatrists. I don't know how many as at today, but they are certainly cycling through. That's a service line that we are requesting PIH to deliver, and they are. I read out some figures just a short while ago. As of 1 May, I think there were three mental health specialists. I think I said to the chair that I would come back on a question on notice about breaking that down to exactly what role those individuals play.

Senator McKIM: Thank you. When you are coming back to provide that breakdown, could you also provide the number of days that they are present on Manus Island and whether that's a regular cycle-

Mr Nockels: Every week or two weeks?

Senator McKIM: Yes.

Mr Nockels: Yes, we can do that.

Senator McKIM: Is it a regular cycle or an on-demand circumstance? Do you understand the difference?

Mr Nockels: I understand.

Answer —

Torture and trauma counsellors deployed to Manus Island prior to 1 November 2017:

- A minimum of two torture and trauma counsellors were deployed to Manus Island prior to 1 November 2017, working six days per week.
- Counsellors worked on a four weeks on/two weeks off rotation.

The three Pacific International Hospital (PIH) mental health specialist roles on 1 May 2018 were:

- One Psychiatrist;
- One Mental Health Nurse Team Leader; and
- One Mental Health Nurse.

All positions are on a regular four week cycle, scheduled back to back so that the positions are constantly occupied.

PIH can deploy additional mental health resources upon clinical need. Currently, the PIH mental health team on Manus Island also has a Mental Health Counsellor.