

Question on notice no. 32

Portfolio question number: SE18/032

2018-19 Supplementary budget estimates

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, Home Affairs Portfolio

Senator Stirling Griff: asked the Department of Home Affairs on 22 October 2018—

(1. Can the department confirm whether any of the following advisory committees or councils are still in existence? If so, please provide the number of members on each committee/council and total expenditure in 2017/18 on each. If not, please provide the date at which each committee/council was disbanded, the reasons for doing so, and whether it is anticipated or intended to reinstate or replace the committee/council: - The Minister's Council on Asylum Seekers and Detention; -The Joint Advisory Committee for Asylum Seeker Management under the Regional Resettlement Arrangement in Papua New Guinea; -The Joint Advisory Committee for Regional Processing Arrangements in Nauru.

Answer —

a) The term of the Minister's Council on Asylum Seekers and Detention (MCASD) expired on 15 April 2018. Future arrangements for the MCASD are a decision for the Minister.

b) The Papua New Guinea Joint Advisory Committee transitioned to regular senior officials level meetings in mid-2017 to progress implementation of regional processing arrangements.

c) The Nauru Joint Advisory Committee was formally replaced by new governance arrangements in July 2018, after joint agreement between the Governments of Australia and Nauru. The new governance arrangements include an Independent Advisory Panel. The Panel comprises key subject matter experts in the fields of refugee settlement, children, security, and health, and includes Paris Aristotle, Dr Maryanne Loughry, Professor Suresh Sundram, Gillian Calvert, Associate Professor Mary-anne Kenny and Leeanne Martin.

In 2017-18, \$108,432.45 was spent on the Nauru Joint Advisory Committee.