

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 23 February 2015**

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

**(AE15/017) - China Trip - Programme 3.1 Compliance, Detention and Status Resolution (Administered)**

Senator Carr, Kim (L&CA 41) asked:

Senator KIM CARR: Mr Secretary, has the invoice that you referred to in your evidence been paid?

Mr Pezzullo: I will have to take that on notice, because I am not sure that any officer at the table is equipped to answer that, because I know that there is a contractual dispute on foot between the prime and the sub and whether they have withheld payment I do not know.

Mr Pezzullo: I understand perfectly well the invoice that is in question and, as we all know, in commercial practice, invoices can be submitted and whether or not they are paid is a subject of both commercial and legal decision making on a case-by-case basis. Mr Cahill said that we make regular payments; that is a fact. We have an invoice; I have not seen it, but I have been advised that we have it; that is a fact. Whether or not it has been paid, it is on notice.

*Answer:*

The invoice referred to was issued by a subcontractor (Ark Modular Structures Pty Ltd) to the Managing Contractor (Decmil Australia Pty Ltd).

Advice from the Project Manager / Contract Administrator (Jacobs Group (Australia) Pty Ltd) is that the invoice has been paid.