

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 23 February 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE15/149) - Nauru - Programme 3.5 Illegal Maritime Arrival (IMA) Offshore Management (Administered)

Senator Hanson-Young, Sarah (L&CA) written:

Does the Department have a policy concerning the time period in which women asylum seekers/refugees are transferred back to Nauru once they have given birth in Australia?

Answer:

The Department takes advice regarding a person's suitability to be transferred to a Regional Processing Centre (RPC) from International Health and Medical Services (IHMS).

The suitability of returns to Nauru RPC is assessed on a case by case basis.

IHMS has recommended that babies can be transferred to Nauru once they have reached three months of age, and if they do not have any significant health issues which cannot be managed at Nauru RPC. Other nuclear family members also need to be assessed as suitable to return to the RPC.