

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 23 February 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE15/156) - Children - Programme 3.1 Compliance, Detention and Status Resolution (Administered)

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

The Human Rights Commission's report states that children held in immigration detention are 15 times more likely than Australian children to suffer from serious mental health disorders, knowing this, how does the Department intend to respond to these findings?

Answer:

The Australian Human Rights Commission Report compares Health of the Nation Outcome Scales for Children and Adolescents (HoNOSCA) data, collected over three months within immigration detention facilities, with the proportion of children in the Australian community referred to hospital-based child mental health out-patient services for psychiatric treatment, from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2013. The Department does not consider that these are comparable measures.

All people in immigration detention, including children, are provided with access to appropriate mental health support, commensurate with Australian community standards.