

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 23 February 2015**

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

**(AE15/162) - Torture and Trauma Issues - Programme 3.1 Compliance, Detention and Status Resolution (Administered)**

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

Has the department directed IHMS to stop asking about Torture and Trauma issues in the initial mental health screening?

*Answer:*

In June 2013 the former Immigration Health Advisory Group (IHAG) recommended that the question regarding torture and trauma history not be asked immediately upon arrival, as part of the public health screening questionnaire. IHAG considered it was more appropriate to ask the question later in the Health Induction Assessment, where more comprehensive mental health screening occurs.

The question was formally removed from the public health screening questionnaire in March 2015. The timing of the removal of the question from the public health screening questionnaire was influenced by the timing of upgrades to International Health and Medical Services' (IHMS) electronic client medical records system. The question remains in the later part of the Health Induction Assessment.