

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 08 February 2016

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE16/002) - School numbers on Nauru - Programme 1.5: IMA Offshore Management

Senator Carr, Kim (L&CA 15) asked:

Ms Moy: There are a number of children who do not attend school. The numbers who are attending school at the moment are very similar to the numbers who attended in the educational facility which was in the regional processing centre. The numbers have not changed dramatically.

Senator KIM CARR: What percentage is that?

Ms Moy: I will pull that percentage out for you. The number of children who are attending school really does relate to parental involvement. The five counsellors who are provided do work with both the schools and the parents. They assist the parents in engaging with the school and therefore assisting the children. But at the end of the day, parental responsibility is difficult. I will get that information for you, if you will just bear with me for a moment.

No, I do not have the actual percentage but I will get that for you during the course of the day.

Senator KIM CARR: What is the number then?

Ms Moy: I do not think I have the number either. I did have the numbers in a previous brief.

Senator KIM CARR: You may find it in your notes.

Ms Moy: I will find it and give it to you.

Senator KIM CARR: Does that include preschool children?

Ms Moy: Yes, it does—from age 4.

Senator KIM CARR: So it is one category. Thank you.

Ms Moy: It is from age 4. The compulsory schooling in Nauru does not commence till age 7.

Senator KIM CARR: Is it a significant number not attending?

Ms Moy: I would say it is probably about 50 per cent, yes, but I will get the exact number for you.

Answer:

As at 19 February 2016 there were 49 school aged (4-18yrs) transferee children in the regional processing centre in Nauru. So far, in Term One of the 2016 Nauru School year (3-19 February), 32 of the 49 school aged transferee children (65 per cent) have attended school.

School attendance figures for refugees and Nauruan children are a matter for the Government of Nauru.