

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 08 February 2016

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE16/045) - Self-harm cases - Programme 1.5: IMA Offshore Management

Senator Hanson-Young, Sarah (L&CA 70/71) asked:

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: In the last estimates session, in October, you gave me some figures around the actual self-harm cases. They sounded different to what was read out earlier today. Could we have some clarification around that? In October you told this session that there have been 74 cases of actual self-harm on Nauru in the first six months, so that would have been from January to June, and we are getting these figures in October. That sounds different to what you had reported earlier today. I am wondering why there is a discrepancy.

Mr Pezzullo: The officer in question might return to the table. It sounds broadly similar—whether there was some delayed reporting or whether some reports came to light subsequent to—

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: It was 74 cases of actual self-harm—

Mr Pezzullo: In the first six months?

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: In the first six months.

Mr Pezzullo: I do recall that exchange from last October.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: That was 74 from Nauru and I was given 34 incidents on Manus.

Mr Pezzullo: I do recall that evidence. I will ask Mr Wright to refresh his memory. He would not have been the officer giving the evidence—

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: No, I do not think so.

Mr Pezzullo: Has that been your evidence earlier today?

Mr Wright: I would have to know what the actual period is. If you went from January to October, my quick maths is about 73 instances of actual self-harm in Nauru—

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: It was quoted that it was the first six months of the year, so I imagine that is January—

Mr Pezzullo: What is your count?

Mr Wright: My count for the first six months for actual self-harm in Nauru is 55.

Mr Pezzullo: There is a plausible explanation there—we will come back on notice. It might be that when we do the reviews there are multiple reports of one incident, and you get the phenomenon of duplicated reporting. The numbers that we gave you in October I am absolutely certain would have been given to you in good faith and would have been based on the best information to hand. If those number have now, it appears, come down by some 20 reports, it might be the case, and will take this on notice, that upon investigation by the relevant authorities, or by quality checking by our own staff, it is possible that three or four or five reports might have come in on the same incident, and they all get amalgamated into one report, I suppose.

Answer:

For the period 1 January 2015 to 30 June 2015 there were a total of 55 incidents of actual self-harm on Nauru.

For the period 1 July 2015 to 31 December 2015 there were a total of 20 incidents of actual self-harm on Nauru.

In preparing the response to this QoN, it has been identified that, due to human error, the actual self-harm figures of 74 for Nauru provided in the October 2015 estimates were incorrect.