

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 08 February 2016

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE16/154) - Ebola Cards - Programme 1.2: Border Management

Senator Carr, Kim (L&CA) written:

1. What date did the use of ebola cards at Australian immigration begin?
2. What date did the use of ebola cards at Australian immigration cease?
3. How many ebola cards were (a) issued and (b) collected by Australian immigration officials?
4. Where and how are the completed ebola cards being stored?
5. Has the data been electronically recorded?
If so, on which Department(s) systems is this information recorded?
6. Where are the physical forms which were collected being kept and under what security conditions?
7. How many people were identified as at risk of ebola upon arrival as a result of the use of the cards?
Of these people, what action was taken, by whom, and what was the outcome of each case?
8. What was the total cost of producing the ebola cards?
9. Who printed the cards and was this put out to tender (please provide details)
10. What date was the Department informed that the ebola cards were no longer to be used?
Who provided this advice, by what means and on what date?
11. Are there remaining ebola cards that were printed but not used?
If so, how many?
12. Have any blank ebola cards been recycled or otherwise disposed of?
What were the costs associated with this disposal?
13. Have any completed ebola cards been destroyed, and if so, how many, on what date and by what means.

Answer:

1. The Department implemented a Travel History Card (THC) at international airports for all travellers (passengers and crew) aged two and over, effective from 14 November 2014. The THC was then rolled out to cruise ships travellers from 18 November 2014.
2. The ABF ceased collecting the THC on 1 December 2015.
3. (a) 0 issued by the Department. The management of THCs, including the dissemination to airlines was the responsibility of the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources.
3. (b) 0 collected by the Department. Every international traveller, cleared at the Entry Control Point handed a THC to an ABF officer for collection by Department of Agriculture and Water Resources officers.
4. This is a matter for the Department of Health.
- 5-7. This is a matter for the Department of Health and Department of Agriculture and Water Resources can advise.

8-9. The Department of Health had overall lead management for the THC including cost.

10. The Department of Health, as the lead agency, informed DIBP on 4 November 2015.

11. This is a matter for the Department of Health can advise. 12-13 The Department of Health and Department of Agriculture and Water Resources can advise.