

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 26 – 27 MAY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

**(BE14/398) PROGRAMME – 3.3 and 3.4: Illegal Maritime Arrival (IMA)
Onshore Management**

Senator Hanson-Young (Written) asked:

What progress has been developed to implement a child protection framework? Please explain the process, the framework and changes that are expected to be made. What are the expected outcomes?

Answer:

Statutory child protection has generally been the responsibility of State and Territory governments and each jurisdiction has different legislation, policies and practices. There is no mandatory, national child protection framework and each State and Territory has different requirements for adults who come in contact with children, including in relation to child safety screening (eg. Working With Children Checks) and mandatory reporting.

As such, the Department of Immigration and Border Protection has had a range of different policies and procedures relating to child protection issues that are managed under the various service delivery streams, including through contracts with service providers and policy and procedural instructions. For example, immigration service delivery providers are required to adhere to the relevant State and Territory legislation, including pre-employment screening programs to ensure child-safe working environments.

The department is developing an overarching child protection policy framework that promotes child protection and does not tolerate child harm. The department also continues to build processes and expertise in relation to working with children, including in relation to managing risks in an operational environment, and has been working with international child welfare organisations (including UNICEF) in this regard.