

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 25 May 2015

#### IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

#### **(BE15/015) - Joint Advisory Committee - Programme 1.5: IMA Offshore Management**

Senator Hanson-Young, Sarah (L&CA 45) asked:

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: These advisory committees are not independent then, are they? This seems very much operational in terms of the management of people involved in that detention and resettlement system.

Ms Noble: Both of these advisory groups include independent members, and we can get you the specific names of the members. In the case of PNG it includes members from the council on asylum seekers and the Commonwealth Ombudsman's office. In the case of Nauru we have independent representation from, again, the Minister's Council on Asylum Seekers in Detention, the Commonwealth Ombudsman, the UNHCR and the International Organisation for Migration. But we can give you the people's actual names.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Is there any reason that their reports on the management and facilitation of those facilities are not made public?

Ms Noble: I can take that on notice, but they are negotiations between our government and a foreign government, so we would have to carefully consult with both foreign governments about their views on that.

*Answer:*

Joint Advisory Committee reports are provided to both the Australian Government and the governments of Papua New Guinea (PNG) and Nauru. They form an important element of the bilateral arrangement and therefore cannot be released without the consent of both governments.