

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 26 May 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE15/058) - Length Children in Detention - Under Labor - Programme 1.5: IMA Offshore Management

Senator Carr, Kim (L&CA 24) asked:

Senator KIM CARR: So the average time is 345—that is current—and there has been a lot of talk about the number of people being held in detention under the previous government. What was the average length of time there for children?

Ms Briscoe: I do not have that at the moment. I can take that on notice.

Senator KIM CARR: Could you take that on notice please.

Ms Briscoe: What period?

Mr Pezzullo: We will take that on notice. We did give evidence in February. We will just make sure that that evidence is updated to take account of the effluxion of time. I think that, as we discussed in February, the earlier number was smaller because there was a larger group, just in mathematical terms, that was being put through the permanent protection process, and now we are to a group that has more complications associated with it. So the number in detention is smaller, but the average length is increasing. My counsel to Ms Briscoe is that we will revisit the evidence that we gave in February—and I think also took on notice—and just make sure that those figures are updated.

Answer:

As at 25 May 2015, children initially detained between 4 December 2007 and 8 September 2013 remained in held detention for an average of 295 days.