

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 26 May 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE15/069) - Detention Centre Funding - Programme 1.3: Compliance and Detention

Senator Carr, Kim (L&CA 46) asked:

Senator KIM CARR: But now you are telling me that you are still going to provide Nauru with \$390 million, Papua New Guinea with \$110 million and Kiribati with \$15 million.

Senator KIM CARR: Can I ask you to take that and to explain that on notice as to how much goes to each of the countries and what it is being used for?

Mr Pezzullo: We will take on notice a description of the measure overall. But, as I said, I am not sure that we can break it out quite in the way that you are seeking.

Senator KIM CARR: And I would like to know what funding arrangements are already in place and whether that amount of money, whatever we decide is the agreed amount, is in addition to resettlement monies?

Mr Pezzullo: We will take on notice the two dimensions. Australia funds service providers under the memoranda of understanding that we have with both nations—PNG and Nauru—to run the centres. That is related to regional processing centre costs. I think you heard some evidence earlier about those costs. Under the MoUs, with both jurisdictions, we have also undertaken to support the undertaking of what is known as refugee determination and then settlement support. If you will, that is a separate bucket of money. I think the best course is to not further engage in doing maths on the fly but to take on notice both components and to give you the best answer we can written on notice as to both dimensions.

CHAIR: Mr Pezzullo, could you relate it back to the evidence that was given earlier as an answer to a question on notice. As I understand it—and I must confess I am slightly confused too—it was given in evidence in 2013-14 as \$922 million given to Manus and \$391 million to Nauru. The amount was divided up into capital and operational.

Mr Pezzullo: I think the best thing to do—

CHAIR: I am just saying, that in the answer you give—

Mr Pezzullo: is to link it.

CHAIR: Yes.

Mr Pezzullo: We will wrap it into one holistic question taken on notice because otherwise you get different answers to different questions.

CHAIR: That is right. That is what I was asking.

Mr Pezzullo: If that is acceptable, Chair, we will handle it in that fashion.

Answer:

The direct costs of running the offshore regional processing centres, including costs for refugee status determination and settlement arrangements across the forward

estimates from 2014-15 are outlined on page 41 in the Portfolio Budget Statements 2015-16 for the Immigration and Border Protection Portfolio under Programme 1.5: IMA offshore management.

\$389.6 million has been allocated over the 2014-15 and 2015-16 financial years to cover the direct costs of the refugee status determination and settlement arrangements with Papua New Guinea (PNG), Nauru and Cambodia, in line with the Memorandums of Understanding in place. The \$389.6 million is part of Programme 1.5.