

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 26 May 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE15/075) - 30 Solitary Confinement Cells - Manus - Programme 1.3: Compliance and Detention

Senator Hanson-Young, Sarah (L&CA 54) asked:

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: I would like to know about the 30 solitary confinement cells that are built within this compound, why the cells were created, how much they cost and the protocols for using them.

Mr Pezzullo: I am sure if that involves the expenditure of public funds that we can find someone who can address that point specifically in the next few hours—and I will insist that we do so.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: I would also like to know how many times they have been used since their construction.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: That type of incident must be logged in an incident report somewhere—that someone has been put in solitary confinement.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: So you would have details as to how often it has been used then?

Mr Pezzullo: We will need to check—

Ms Briscoe: The service provider would have those details.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: But aren't all incident reports forwarded to the department?

Ms Briscoe: Yes, if it is according to our incident framework it will also be reported to us.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: If you could take this on notice, I would like to know how often they have been used. Could I go to the issue of—

Mr Pezzullo: Just to be clear, so there is no ambiguity: we will take on notice operational matters—I am certain that we will have to consult with other parties. In relation to the expenditure of Commonwealth funds, we will attempt to get you an answer before or just after the dinner break because that should be evidenced somewhere in the department. I do apologise for not having that information to hand.

Answer:

A purpose built Managed Accommodation Area (MAA) with 36 rooms has been built at the Manus Regional Processing Centre and the construction will be completed at the end of June 2015. The cost of the MAA is included in the total contract value which is available on Austender. Please refer to:

<https://www.tenders.gov.au/?event=public.advancedsearch.keyword&keyword=CN1955772>

A temporary MAA is located approximately 200 metres from the Manus Regional Processing Centre

All incidents of use of the MAA are reported in accordance with the Incident Reporting and Management Guidelines. For the period 23 February 2015 until 7 May 2015, the MAA has been used 11 times.