

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 26 May 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE15/110) - Re-Detained Child - Criminal Charges - Programme 1.4: IMA Onshore Management

Senator Hanson-Young, Sarah (L&CA 92) asked:

Briscoe: Following some criminal charges.

CHAIR: Do you know what the criminal charges were?

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Obviously not of the child?

Ms Briscoe: Yes.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Of the child?

Ms Briscoe: Yes.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: So what on earth has been going on? How old is the child?

Ms Briscoe: I do not have that information.

Senator Ronaldson: Senator, again comments such as 'what on earth is going on' I do not think are fair to these officers. If the senator has got a question, can we please take the commentary out of it and have the question asked?

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: You do not have the detail of how old the child is?

Ms Briscoe: No, I do not have that.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: So charges have been laid. Is there a court date? They have not been convicted.

Ms Briscoe: No. My information is that criminal charges have been laid.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Was this an unaccompanied minor?

Ms Briscoe: I do not have that information either. I can find that out and get back to you.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Could you?

Ms Briscoe: Yes.

Senator Ronaldson: We will take that on notice, Senator.

CHAIR: I think all of the committee would be interested in all of the details surrounding this— what the offence is, how it happened—

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: How old the child is.

Ms Briscoe: Some of that may be subject to whatever proceedings are under way at the moment.

CHAIR: Of course.

Answer:

The 16 year old child arrived at Christmas Island with his mother, brother and sister.

On 2 April 2014 the criminal charges were finalised and the child was found guilty of 'Aggravated Break and Enter, commit serious indictable offence – in company' and 'Possess/attempt to possess, prescribed restricted substance'. No conviction was recorded and the child was placed on probation and a Good Behaviour Bond for 12 months.