

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 25 May 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE15/156) - Child Sexual Abuse - Programme 1.1: Border Enforcement

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

- What procedures are in place to ensure mandatory reporting of instances of child sexual abuse to child protection authorities in Australia?

Answer:

The department manages reporting and investigation of child protection issues through its service streams (such as held detention, SRSS Bands 1-6 and the Unaccompanied Humanitarian Minor programme), including through contractual arrangements with service providers.

Departmental service providers are required to comply with state and territory law within relevant jurisdictions, including mandatory reporting laws. Under their contracts, service providers are required to make all child protection issues known to the department and to the relevant authorities. The department follows up all issues to ensure that appropriate actions are taken, which may include care, accommodation, and support services.

On 9 May 2015, the Department of Immigration and Border Protection established a Child Protection Panel to provide independent advice on child protection in immigration detention and Regional Processing Centres (RPCs). The Child Protection Panel will work to strengthen policies and procedures to ensure the ongoing safety and welfare of children in immigration detention and RPCs and will advise the Secretary regarding departmental and service providers' responses in relation to their child protection frameworks.