

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 22 May 2017

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE17/065) - RPC Inquiry report recommendations - independent child advocate - Programme 1.5: IMA Offshore Management

Senator Watt, Murray (L&CA 138) asked:

Senator WATT: Sure. Has the government of Nauru expressed a position on the appointment of an independent children's advocate?

Mr Pezzullo: Not in my recollection. As I said, it is not government policy and the government will consider the report, so it is not something that is front of mind. As to whether the government of Nauru has expressed a view, Ms Noble, can you recall?

Ms Noble: I am not sure. We would have to take that on notice. They may have.

Senator WATT: If you could take that on notice, that would be appreciated.

Answer:

The government of Nauru has not expressed a position on the appointment of an independent children's advocate to the Department of Immigration and Border Protection.

The Government of Nauru established a Child Protection Unit in June 2015. This Unit has lead responsibility for the care and protection of children in Nauru. The Nauru Crimes Act 2016, enacted in May 2016, was amended to include provisions for offences causing or risking harm to children due to neglect, physical, emotional and sexual abuse. The Child Protection and Welfare Act 2016 was later enacted on 10 June 2016, ushering in legal provisions for the welfare, care and protection of all children in Nauru, and for the enforcement of children's rights under various international conventions, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child.