

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 20 OCTOBER 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE14/459) PROGRAMME – 3.5 and 3.6: Illegal Maritime Arrival (IMA) Offshore Management

Senator Hanson-Young (Written) asked:

- How many medical transfers have been made from Manus Island to Australia? What is the cost per transfer?
- How many medical transfers have been made from Nauru to Australia? What is the cost per transfer?
- How many of the medical transfers from Nauru to Australia were of children/pregnant women?
- How many IHMS requests to transfer patients from Manus Island and/or Nauru have been overruled by DIBP?

Answer:

From 8 September 2013 to 27 November 2014, 48 transferees were transferred from Manus to Australia for medical reasons and 137 transferees were transferred from Nauru to Australia for medical reasons. These figures do not include accompanying family members.

There are a large number of variables that impact the cost of individual transfer operations such as the number of transferees, their risk profiles, plane availability and potential escort requirements. The department is unable to provide a cost per transfer.

From 8 September 2013 to 27 November 2014, 41 pregnant women and 2 children were transferred from Nauru to Australia for medical reasons. These figures do not include accompanying family members.

No medical transfers or medical evacuations have been overruled by the department where IHMS considers the transfer to be clinically necessary and the patient is unable to be treated in Manus or Nauru.