

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 19 October 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE15/031) - Commonwealth obligations - Detention facilities - Programme 1.3: Compliance and Detention

Senator Carr, Kim (L&CA 96) asked:

Senator KIM CARR: Thank you very much. So the Commonwealth obligations come from the direct position that you have taken, as a department, with regard to all detention facilities?

Mr Pezzullo: We have found ourselves in the—

Senator KIM CARR: Yes, that is what I am saying. How long has that been in place?

Mr Pezzullo: I might need to take the details on notice. Certainly, it is a direction that I gave from the start of my secretaryship. I do not know—

Senator KIM CARR: But it was the practice?

Mr Pezzullo: I believe it was, but we will need to do the research and take it on notice.

Answer:

The Department and its service providers have long standing processes in place to report child abuse incidents to appropriate law enforcement agencies and where required, relevant state and territory child protection authorities.

On 12 May 2015, the Secretary issued directions to reinforce the requirement that Departmental officers must report to the relevant state welfare authority where a case of child abuse or neglect is suspected or disclosed in an immigration detention facility.