

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 19 October 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE15/033) Publication of woman's personal details by the Government of Nauru - Programme 1.5: IMA Offshore Management

Senator Hanson-Young, Sarah (L&CA 101) asked:

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Do you have any concerns that the publication of this woman's name and such personal details in relation to her alleged assault puts her safety at further risk on Nauru?

Mr Pezzullo: Those really are matters for the government of Nauru. It is a matter for them to explain their practices in such matters. If I recall correctly—and other officers will correct this evidence—the justice minister of Nauru himself has further added to the discussion by his own statement, as I recall it—not about the woman's particulars but about the rationale, as he saw it, for the government of Nauru to engage fairly directly on what he, Mr Adeang, considers to be biased or distorted reporting. But these are really matters for that government and for statements by their officials.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: I understand that, Mr Pezzullo, but my concern is that Nauru is a small community, as you know—you have been there—and people on the island now know who this woman is and what her name is. They would know where she resides, and they have access to very personal information about an alleged sexual assault. I cannot see in any way how that is appropriate.

Mr Pezzullo: I do not mean to diminish your question at all, but that is a matter for judgement and opinion. Would an Australian police service or an Australian government proceed down this path? I do not readily recall a comparable incident, but these are really matters for the Nauruan government. They have made a decision to—

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Yes, but this woman's safety is put at further risk.

Mr Pezzullo: Yes, I understand the question and its premise. I can only presume, and we can make further inquiries and take on notice the thinking about how to ensure that the risks are appropriately managed and the woman is given full and appropriate protection. I am not seeking to dodge the question, other than to say it is really a matter for another jurisdiction. They have to make decisions about—

Answer:

The safety and security of people in the Nauruan community is a matter for the Government of Nauru.