

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 19 October 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE15/080) - Tuberculosis on Nauru/Manus - Programme 1.3: Compliance and Detention

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

How many cases of tuberculosis have been identified on Nauru (either in the camp or in the resettled group)?

How many of those are children?

Were parents ever informed that Tuberculosis is not contagious?

How many cases of tuberculosis have been identified on Manus Island?

What remedies are offered for people with tuberculosis on Manus Island and Nauru?

Answer:

Between 1 July and 30 September 2015, no adults or minors have been diagnosed with active tuberculosis at the Nauru Regional Processing Centre. IHMS is not aware of any cases of active tuberculosis in the refugee population settled on Nauru.

IHMS has not told detainees, transferees or refugees that 'tuberculosis is not contagious'.

Between 1 July and 30 September 2015, no transferees were diagnosed with active tuberculosis at Manus Regional Processing Centre.

Persons with active tuberculosis are treated with multi-drug therapy, with the full course of treatment usually lasting six months. Where the person is infectious, they will also be medically isolated and treated under clinical supervision until no longer infectious – this usually lasts around two weeks.

Persons with latent tuberculosis may be offered a course of preventative treatment with an anti-tuberculosis drug (most commonly for nine months) to reduce the chances of tuberculosis reactivation.