

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 17 October 2016

#### IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

#### **(SE16/029) - Immigration and Citizenship authority in PNG - Programme 1.5: IMA Offshore Management**

Senator McKim, Nick (L&CA 82) asked:

Mr Woodford-Smith: What I can update you with is that the individual that you raised was hospitalised. There were a number of charges laid—someone arrested and charges laid. I am not sure where that is up to at the moment, and that really is the Immigration and Citizenship Service Authority's domain to follow that up. I certainly have not heard—

Mr Pezzullo: And the Papua New Guinean police, I assume.

Mr Woodford-Smith: And the PNG constabulary.

Senator McKIM: So the service authority is a Papua New Guinean agency, is it?

Mr Woodford-Smith: Yes, they are the immigration and citizenship authority and they actually maintain and run the regional processing centre arrangements and the PNG police, obviously, were involved in that particular incident. From our perspective, I have not got any more detail on that. I would have to go back to ICSA to confirm what those outcomes may have been.

Mr Pezzullo: If I may, having heard the senator's question, you are confident that the case that you are aware of broadly fits that description?

Mr Woodford-Smith: That is correct.

Mr Pezzullo: We think that we are on the same page, but we will check that on notice.

Senator McKIM: I appreciate that. This is my last question on this matter, so maybe we can tie it off. My understanding also is that some of his fellow human beings who have been assessed as having refugee status are currently on Manus Island and wanted to visit him, but were not allowed in at the RPC. Could I prevail on you to see if there is any further information in real time from the Papua New Guinea government that perhaps you might be able to provide the committee with today, if possible.

Mr Pezzullo: If possible. Given the lateness of the hour, I am not necessarily sure that we will be able to satisfy your request for real-time information. Suffice to say that, like in any hospital system or clinic arrangement, if a person does not have a warranted connection with the person in question—they are not kin or family—it might well be the case that visiting privileges are restricted or indeed non-existent. But to the extent that we can ascertain any information for you, we will.

*Answer:*

It is confirmed that Senator McKim and Assistant Commissioner Woodford-Smith were discussing the same case.

The Department is not aware of any persons seeking to meet with the affected individual while he received treatment within the Manus Regional Processing Centre. Any such requests would be decided in line with relevant clinical advice.