

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 17 October 2016

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE16/083) - Detention Placement Framework - Programme 1.4: IMA Onshore Management

Senator McKim, Nick (L&CA) written:

Can the Department provide the newly adopted Detention Placement Framework, which governs the transfer of people between detention centres?

- Does this Framework consider the expenditure involved in transferring people between detention centres, particularly the mental health costs when people are separated from existing support networks?
- Can the Department confirm that the Framework indicates that people who are currently in a legal process should not be moved from their detention centre? If so, what procedures are available for redress if legal representatives are separated from their clients?

Answer:

The National Detention Placement Model

- The National Detention Placement Model (NDPM), which was implemented in July 2015, provides a national risk-based approach to the placement of detainees within the network.
- Placement decisions are part of a process of assessing and minimising risk to other detainees, service providers, visitors and staff. Detainee needs are considered in line with the Department's duty of care to all detainees. In making placement decisions, medical needs are prioritised, and family and community links are carefully considered.
- The types of information provided to officers utilising the NDPM includes the following:
 - Detention-related policy settings
 - Detainee court proceedings
 - Risk to national security, escape, self or others
 - Health needs and vulnerabilities
 - Family and community links
 - Immigration pathway
 - Facility capacity and capability.

Mental Health Impacts

- Existing support networks are part of the placement consideration. In making placement decisions, medical needs are prioritised, and family and community links are carefully considered.
- Mental health service provision remains a significant part of health service planning and provision across the detention network.

Access to Legal Representation

- The Department provides Audio Visual Link (Video conferencing) facilities and telephones as well as access to computers, printers and fax facilities to allow the detainees to maintain contact with their legal representation as well as continue research for their legal matters.
- Where a detainee is required to appear in person before the relevant court, the Department will return the detainee.