

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 17 October 2016

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE16/086) - Mental health support - Programme 1.4: IMA Onshore Management

Senator McKim, Nick (L&CA) written:

When people are being released from detention, what (if any) mental health support is being provided?

Answer:

Prior to a detainee being released from detention, the Department's contracted Health Services Provider, International Health and Medical Services (IHMS), conducts a health discharge assessment. As part of the assessment, IHMS makes recommendations which may include arranging care for people with complex mental health needs. If IHMS has concerns about the mental health of a detainee that may impact on their continuity of care after release from immigration detention, the Department is advised of these concerns.

Individuals who are released from held detention on a bridging visa may be eligible under the Status Resolution Support Services (SRSS) programme to receive up to 10 sessions of mental health counselling and up to 16 sessions of Torture and Trauma counselling, per year. Services provided under the SRSS programme include:

- case management support;
- case worker support and case coordination;
- access to health and medical services;
- torture and trauma counselling;
- education;
- living allowance; and
- rent and bond assistance.

Those people released from detention who are eligible for Medicare benefits are able to access mental health services in line with Australian public health standards. Medicare eligibility is determined by the Department of Human Services (DHS).