

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 17 October 2016

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE16/112) - Children in detention - Programme 1.5: IMA Offshore Management

Senator Carr, Kim (L&CA) written:

In relation to children in detention:

Has DIBP undertaken any reviews into the protection of children in onshore and offshore detention in the 15/16 financial year?

How often does the Child Protection Panel meet and what is its role?

Has the Panel made any referrals to other agencies or authorities?

What were the outcomes of those referrals and what were the nature of the referrals?

When were those findings presented to the Minister?

Has the Panel made any referrals to other agencies or authorities?

Has DIBP received a copy of the panels indicative findings?

When were those findings presented to the Minister?

How many recommendations are included in the report?

Have any of those recommendations been implemented?

When will the report be released publically?

Answer

In relation to children in detention, had DIBP undertaken any reviews into the protection of children in onshore and offshore detention in the 15/16 financial year?

In response to the Save the Children incident reports released by *The Guardian* on 10 August 2016, the Department undertook an analysis to establish if appropriate follow-up actions had been implemented to manage the individual incidents, to provide independent advice on issues pertaining to the wellbeing and protection of children in immigration detention and in regional processing centres, and assurance that a comprehensive and contemporary framework relating to the protection of children was in place.

How often does the Child Protection Panel meet and what is its role?

The Panel convened from March 2015 to May 2016 to provide independent advice on issues pertaining to the wellbeing and protection of children in immigration detention and in regional processing centres, and assurance that a comprehensive and contemporary framework relating to the protection of children was in place.

The Panel also provided the Department with advice around the development of the Child Safeguarding Framework (the Framework).

Has the Panel made any referrals to other agencies or authorities?

The Panel did not make any direct referrals to welfare or law enforcement agencies.

What were the outcomes of those referrals and what was the nature of the referrals?

See above.

The Department takes active steps to address any risks to minors and enhance policies, practices and training around the reporting, response and management of incidents involving minors.

Were those findings presented to the Minister?

See above.

Has DIBP received a copy of the Panel's indicative findings?

On 11 May 2016, the Panel delivered its final report to the Department.

How many recommendations are included in the report?

The Panel's final report included 17 recommendations.

Have any of those recommendations been implemented?

The Department has finalised the Child Safeguarding Framework and the implementation of an action plan to respond to these recommendations. The Panel has reviewed and provided feedback on the Department's action plan for the implementation of its recommendations.

The Department will reconvene the Panel in mid-2017 to review the Department's implementation of the report's recommendations.

When were those findings presented to the Minister?

The Department presented the Panel's final report to the Minister on 8 August 2016.

When will the report be publicly released?

A public version of the Panel's report and the Department's response is expected to be published on the Department's website soon.