

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 11 February 2013**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

**(AE13/0310) PROGRAM – 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance**

Senator Cash (Written) asked:

What has the Australian government promised to provide Nauru and PNG in addition to the construction of the processing centres? Are there arrangements to increase our Ausaid commitments? Is there a commitment to build schools, hospitals, medical centres, desalination plants, electricity generators etc? If so at what cost and where would that appear in the budget? Are any items associated with the establishment and running of either processing centre, including accommodation that is being funded by other agencies, including from the Ausaid budget? If so, how much and what is it for.

*Answer:*

### Nauru

Undertakings by the Australian Government to provide the Government of Nauru relate only to the construction of the permanent processing centres.

The department, however, has made minor upgrades to Ward 4 and the dental area at the Republic of Nauru (RoN) Hospital to a total cost of \$51,278 to ensure these facilities are serviceable to transferees who require medical care at the hospital. The repairs to Ward 4 included painting, fly screen replacement, refurbishment of the toilet and shower area, new ceiling fans and gutter repairs. The repairs to the dental area included replacement of a mouldy ceiling, painting and new air-conditioning.

There is no commitment to build schools, hospitals, medical centres, desalination plants, or install electricity generators for Nauru. No items associated with the establishment and running of the regional processing centres are funded by other agencies.

While AusAID funds existing development assistance projects in Nauru, these do not have any connection to regional processing. Further details regarding these projects should be sought directly from AusAID.

Manus Island, Papua New Guinea

Clause 8 of the *Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Papua New Guinea and the Government of Australia, relating to the transfer to and assessment of persons in Papua New Guinea, and related issues* states that:

'Separate to the costs incurred for the specific operation of this MOU, the Participants (The Government of Papua New Guinea and Government of Australia) will develop a package of assistance focused on Manus Province and other bilateral cooperation, which will be in addition to the current allocation of Australian development cooperation assistance to PNG, and directed towards priorities which are consistent with the revised PNG-Australia Partnership for Development (endorsed by both Governments on 12 October 2011).'

This package of assistance is being developed by AusAID and questions regarding these commitments should be directed to AusAID.