

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES - 25 FEBRUARY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE14/080) PROGRAMME – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Hanson-Young (L&CA 109) asked:

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: I am asking whether the department has a number or is aware of the number of women who have had miscarriages while they were in detention.

Mr Bowles: What I said is that IHMS keep those records. We have access to whatever information we require to make decisions about—

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Could you please take it on notice. I would like to know how many miscarriages have occurred in both Manus Island and Nauru and on Christmas Island, please.

Mr Bowles: I will take that on notice, and I will consider it in the context of privacy issues of transferees.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: I am not asking for individuals.

Mr Bowles: It is not hard to come down with an answer when we are talking about a small group of people, so I am not going to commit to something that I think will breach the privacy of those individuals. I will take it on notice and I will have a look at it in that context, and I want to make that very clear.

Answer:

Due to the potential risk of identifying individuals and their health status, a response cannot be provided to this question.