

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES - 25 FEBRUARY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE14/367) PROGRAMME – 4.2: Onshore Detention Network

Senator Hanson-Young (Written) asked:

There are approximately 280 primary school aged children and approximately 100 secondary school aged children detained at the Christmas Island Detention Centre.

- 1) What education programs are available to these children?
- 2) Will children be attending the local school? How long will this program run for?
- 3) Will local teachers be employed at the centre?

Answer:

As at 25 February 2014, there were 118 primary school aged (5-12 years) and 84 secondary school aged (13-17) children in immigration detention on Christmas Island.

The department funds access to education by school aged illegal maritime arrival (IMA) children at the local school on Christmas Island, including funding of additional teaching resources.

This enables some IMA children to attend classes at the local school and also enables teachers from the school to deliver classes to other children using classrooms within the Christmas Island immigration detention facility.

With the very high numbers of arrivals last year, demand for the places at the school has outstripped the supply. As a result, IMA children on Christmas Island have been receiving part-time access to education on a rotational basis.

The department is working with the detention services provider, the Indian Ocean Territories' administration and relevant education authorities to ensure access to full-time education for all school-aged IMA children for the duration of their stay on Christmas Island.

All IMA children on Christmas Island have access to a broad range of age appropriate programmes and activities, including excursions and English as a Second Language (ESL) classes provided by the department's detention service provider.