

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES - 25 FEBRUARY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE14/380) PROGRAMME – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Hanson-Young (Written) asked:

What procedures are followed if there is an asylum seeker suspected of being an unaccompanied minor detained on Manus Island? Who is responsible for undertaking the age assessments on Manus Island?

Answer:

If claims are raised that a transferee is a minor, departmental staff on Manus Island hold a conversation with the individual and refer pertinent information to the Director, Age Determination, in National Office. The Director conducts an offshore age consideration taking into account information provided by the transferee or those engaging with them, together with any available documentation. In cases where the Director considers the case would benefit from a formal age determination assessment, the transferee is returned to Australia as quickly as possible to enable that process to take place.