

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES - 25 FEBRUARY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE14/403) PROGRAMME – 4.2: Onshore Detention Network

Senator Ludwig (Written) asked:

What screening is undertaken on admission and release for infectious disease in detainees and staff in detention centres?

Answer:

Illegal Maritime Arrivals undergo a health induction assessment within 48 hours and Illegal Foreign Fishers and onshore compliance detainees within 72 hours of entering an immigration detention facility.

The assessment includes a chest x-ray, blood tests and a physical examination, including public health screening, conducted by a health clinician. The blood tests include screening for HIV, Hepatitis B and C and Syphilis serology. The possibility of Tuberculosis (TB) in these groups is initially assessed through a public health screening questionnaire and physical examination.

Screening for other infectious diseases is undertaken at any time in detention when clinically indicated, including when a person is released from a detention facility.

If a person has undergone treatment for infectious TB they will not be placed in the community until a departmental medical officer is satisfied that they are no longer infectious.

Staff are required to have up to date vaccinations prior to deployment to a detention facility. Service provider staff are also required to have relevant vaccinations in line with their contractual obligations, including Work, Health and Safety requirements, and the detention centre location. Post deployment health screening is undertaken if clinically indicated.