

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 22 May 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(242) Output 1.5: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Nettle (L&C 143 and written) asked:

1. What is the cost of the monthly visits by the psychiatrist to Nauru (including salary, travel, accommodation, medicine)?
2. How often does a psychiatrist visit the two men?
3. What is the total cost of psychiatric care for the two men?
4. Has DIMA been given reports on their mental health?
5. Do these reports concern DIMA?
6. Do they recommend any solutions such as bring the men to Australia?

Answer:

1 & 2. The costs for the monthly psychiatrist visits to Nauru are currently averaging AUS\$15,000 per visit. This includes professional fees, airfares, accommodation, allowances and car hire for one week per month. The psychiatrist visits the two men regularly during this week.

3. The total cost of the mental health team, which provides psychiatric care for the two men and mental health services to the Nauru community, is \$230,000 over a six-month period. A cost for services to the two men alone cannot be separated.

4. Yes.

5. The reports are closely monitored by the Department.

6. The recommendations in the reports are confidential, as they contain personal medical and case related information.