

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 23-24 MAY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE11/0630) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash asked:

What is the Department's policy in the event that an asylum seeker does not pass the health check?

Answer:

The Department undertakes various health checks to determine an individual's health status, including a Health Induction Assessment on arrival on Christmas Island, regular health monitoring, medical intervention and treatment as required, Fitness to Travel assessments prior to clients being transported from Christmas Island or any other facility, and a Health Discharge Assessment prior to any client being released from immigration detention.

If through any of these, or other health checks undertaken, a person is found to be not fit to travel, they would not be transferred, unless for an urgent medical reason, in which case every medical precaution would be taken, including using the Royal Flying Doctor Service or air ambulance to minimise any risk of harm to the person being moved, and others travelling with the person.