

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 23-24 MAY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE11/0631) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash asked:

Would asylum seekers with TB be able to be transported to the mainland?

Answer:

Should someone with active TB be required to be transferred to the mainland, this would only occur following treatment, and once the person had passed the infectivity period, that is, when he/she is no longer able to spread the disease.

Should someone with TB require transport to the mainland because of a medical or other emergency, they would be transported by the Royal Flying Doctor Service or air ambulance, with full precautions taken to mitigate any risk of transmission.