QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES HEARING: 17 OCTOBER 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE11/0298) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Hanson-Young (L&CA) asked:

Provide comparative figures for last 12 months for the number of people who have had a mental illness diagnosis, the use of psychotropics medication and anti-depressant medication by detention facilities?

Answer.

Please refer to the attached tables which provide data at points in time over the previous twelve months for mental illness diagnosis and the prescription of psychotropic (anti-depressant and anti-psychotic) medication.

The first table gives the numbers of people at each facility who have ever been diagnosed with a mental illness by a psychiatrist or general practitioner while in immigration detention. This may include people who were no longer mentally ill at the time of the report. (Data on the exact number of people who were still exhibiting the signs and symptoms of mental illness at certain points in time is not available.) The table also includes the number of people, at the time of the report, receiving anti-depressant or anti-psychotic medication.

The second table gives the data as a percentage of the population at each facility at the time of the report.

The data in the following tables was provided by the Health Services Provider, International Health and Medical Services (IHMS).