

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 17 OCTOBER 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE11/0338) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash (L&CA written) asked:

Christmas Island: The Public Works Committee recommends that DIAC review existing medical facility with a view to constructing a fit for purpose medical centre. Will the Department be accepting that recommendation? Has any work commenced on a new medical facility? What is the anticipated cost?

Answer:

The Department acknowledges Recommendation 5 of the Public Works on Christmas Island report dated 11 October 2011, in which it recommends that a new medical facility be built at the site known as Construction Camp.

At the time of the visit by the Public Works Committee to Christmas Island, Construction Camp was at near full capacity and DIAC acknowledges that the medical facilities were stretched to cope with the surge capacity.

Since the visit by the Public Works Committee the Department has reduced the number of clients in this facility.

The Department is engaging with its health services provider to identify an appropriate solution at Construction Camp.