

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 17 OCTOBER 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE11/0378) Program 4.2: Onshore Detention Network

Senator Hanson-Young asked:

Christmas Island and mental health: Are detainees entitled to independent psychological assessment review?

Answer:

Clinicians employed by the Health Services Provider, International Health and Medical Services (IHMS), can make recommendations for a second opinion, including psychological assessment review.

The need for a second opinion is considered on a case by case basis and may be discussed by the primary IHMS clinician with the IHMS Medical Director at the detention facility, or with other senior IHMS clinicians.

Where IHMS does not consider a second-opinion to be warranted clinically, the client or their representative can seek to make their own arrangements for a second opinion at their own expense.

If the client is seeking a second opinion in relation to a diagnosis made by a medical specialist, including a non-IHMS specialist, the IHMS GP may refer the client to a different specialist.