

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 15 October 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE12/0514) PROGRAM – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash (written) asked:

What level of security is currently in place and what is planned? Have these arrangements been put in place in consultation with the government of Nauru? What access will asylum seekers have to the rest of the Island? What is their status on the Island at the moment? Do they have visas? If so, what kind?

Answer:

The Regional Processing Centre on Nauru is considered low security. Security infrastructure currently consists of a 1.8 metre perimeter fence and a staffed guard post at the front gate. Fencing is necessary as the physical surrounds of the site can be unsafe at night.

Lighting is in place to ensure the safety of clients and staff when moving through the centre after dark.

The security arrangements have been agreed with and are supported by the Government of Nauru.

Asylum seekers are currently able to leave the Regional Processing Centre on supervised excursions. These excursions form part of the programs and activities schedule.

Asylum seekers are granted an Australian Regional Processing Visa (Offshore Entry Person) by the Government of Nauru.