

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 15 October 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE12/0571) PROGRAM – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash (written) asked:

How many instances of communicable diseases have been found on those who have arrived illegally by boat this financial year? What diseases have been found? How does that compare to last financial year?

Answer:

There have been no people who have arrived illegally by boat this financial year.

For Irregular Maritime Arrivals (IMAs), International Health and Medical Services (IHMS) reports that from July to September 2012, 158 new cases of communicable disease were identified in Immigration Detention Facilities (IDFs).

These diseases included Chickenpox, Chlamydia, Gonorrhoea, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B (including active and carrier states), Hepatitis C, HIV/AIDS, Malaria, Syphilis and Tuberculosis (active).

During July 2011 to June 2012 there were 289 new cases of communicable disease identified amongst IMAs in IDFs.

IMAs are not placed into the community if they have a disease which requires treatment in medical isolation.