

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 15 October 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE12/0578) PROGRAM – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash (written) asked:

Cocos (Keeling) Islands: How are IMAs detained on Cocos and Keeling Islands?

Answer:

Irregular maritime arrivals (IMAs) who arrive at Cocos (Keeling) Islands are detained under section 189(3) of the Migration Act by an officer of the Department of Immigration and Citizenship.

The IMAs are accommodated at the former Cocos (Keeling) Islands Quarantine Station while the department makes arrangements for their transfer to Christmas Island, usually within 72 hours. Occasionally, due to external factors such as weather, this time frame may be extended.