

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 15 October 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE12/0634) PROGRAM – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Di Natale (written) asked:

What is the Department's assessment of the risk of asylum-seekers contracting diseases, particularly tropical diseases whilst in detention on Nauru? On what basis has the Department made this assessment?

Answer:

According to the Centre for Disease Control's surveillance reports from America, instance of tropical disease on Nauru is minimal.

IHMS is the department's contracted Health Services Provider, and has conducted a site visit and prepared a vaccination schedule for Nauru. This vaccination schedule is in line with the Australian Vaccination Handbook recommendations. This schedule has been endorsed by the department's Chief Medical Officer and the vaccination program is offered to all transferees.