

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: No Date Given

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE12/0664) PROGRAM – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Hanson-Young (written) asked:

Will the Minister or DIAC delegates send pregnant women, children and those most vulnerable to malaria to PNG where there is an increased risk of malaria? Does DIAC possess medical advice approving this?

Answer:

Under section 198AE of the *Migration Act 1958*, an officer must, as soon as reasonably practicable, take an offshore entry person detained under section 189 of the *Migration Act 1958* to a Regional Processing Country. The Minister may determine, in writing, that this provision does not apply to an offshore entry person. This determination may only be exercised by the Minister personally.

As at the time of the hearing, no person had been exempted by the Minister.

People transferred to Manus Island will receive health care services provided by qualified health care professionals. These services will take into consideration environmental factors.