

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 November 2013

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE13/0104) PROGRAM – Internal Product

Senator Hanson-Young (Written) asked:

Has the Department received independent advice regarding the conditions and health risks on Manus Island and Nauru? Could you please provide the details of this advice?

Answer:

The department has sought and received advice from Dr Paul Alexander, Chair of the former Immigration Health Advisory Group (IHAG) about key health risks for transferees on Nauru and Manus Island, and measures to mitigate these risks.

The department receives reports from a range of organisations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Amnesty International and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) following visits to Nauru and Manus Island offshore processing centres (OPCs).

The reports include recommendations for improvements in the physical living conditions, the amenities and facilities available to transferees and health services. The department implements these recommendations where appropriate.