

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 November 2013

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE13/0136) PROGRAMME – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Rhiannon (Written) asked:

What are the minimum qualifications or standards of accreditation for doctors working in each of the the OPCs [Offshore Processing Centres]? Are they the same as those required by doctors working in Australia?

Answer:

All health professionals employed by International Health and Medical Services (IHMS) must be registered (as applicable) with the relevant health authority in PNG/Nauru. IHMS health professionals coming from Australia are also registered with the relevant Australian health registration board.

IHMS health professionals from other countries are also registered in their country of origin and IHMS is contractually required to certify that they: have obtained qualifications of a similar standing to the Australian qualifications for that category of clinician; and are capable of providing health care to a standard comparable with Australian standards.