

Senate Inquiry – Incidents at Manus OPC on 16-18 February 2014

Request 2 (p)

Medical and staff assistance, including mental health service assistance, available to staff and asylum seekers at the Manus Island Detention Centre.

Response 2 (p)

International Health and Medical Services (IHMS) is contracted to provide health services for transferees at the Manus Island OPC as well as delivering some primary health care for staff.

Services available for transferees on site include general practitioners, nurses, paramedics, mental health nurses, psychologists, counsellors and psychiatrist.

Full time psychiatric services have been available at the Manus OPC from 21 January 2014. There is a single full time position which is filled on rotation using the fly-in fly-out model, typically providing a five day per week service of approximately 38 hours each week. Since the end of February, there has been regular provision of psychiatric services although the health services provider has at times, found it difficult to recruit suitable staff. To further support health services on Manus, including psychiatric consultations, telemedicine infrastructure has been established on Manus and is currently undergoing testing.

Other services such as specialist, ancillary and acute care is provided either through the Lorengau Hospital on Manus or by arrangement of visiting practitioners.

Primary health care for departmental and service provider staff is delivered by IHMS. Mental health support is available through the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) for departmental officers. Service provider staff access support through their employer.