

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 23 February 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE15/042) - Mental Health - Children in Nauru - Programme 3.2 Compliance, Detention and Status Resolution (Departmental)

Senator Hanson-Young, Sarah (L&CA 75) asked:

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Could you take on notice who has been consulted in relation to this data collection and reporting? Which individuals have been consulted? Why is the head of IHMS, Peter Young, who has put forward this proposition to the Human Rights Commission, not an expert in how this data should be reported?

Answer:

The review of mental health screening and reporting arrangements in immigration detention was led by the department's Independent Health Advisor, Dr Paul Alexander AO.

Dr Alexander consulted with Professor Brett McDermott, a consultant child and adolescent psychiatrist, Professorial Fellow at Mater Medical Research Institute and Director at Beyondblue, who has relevant expertise with mental health screening instruments. Dr Alexander also consulted with the department's Chief Medical Officer Dr Paul Douglas, and International Health and Medical Services, including psychiatric consultants nominated by IHMS Regional Medical Director Dr Mark Parrish.