

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 23 February 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE15/081) - Human Rights Commission - Programme 2.1 Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance (Administered)

Senator Macdonald, Ian (L&CA 120) asked:

CHAIR: Before we go to Senator Madigan, the final question from me on that Human Rights Commission report: I heard about the children being wrestled to the ground. I see that the videos taken were taken by staff of the centre.

Mr Pezzullo: Yes.

CHAIR: How old was the child in question, because he looks to me to be a pretty big child physically?

Mr Pezzullo: We will take on notice their age. I think they were at the older end of the child spectrum, so under 16 but at the larger end, just looking at those still images. I would have to take it on notice. Just to be precise, the use of force involves a restraint. The description 'wrestle to the ground' is probably colloquially right. They were being restrained in accordance with approved holds. We will take on notice their age.

Answer:

At the time of the incident, all three of the detainees were aged 17 years.