

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 23 February 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE15/084) - Detainee Self Harm - Programme 3.1 Compliance, Detention and Status Resolution (Administered)

Senator Bilyk, Catryna (L&CA 123) asked:

Senator BILYK: I do not think you will be able to answer this, judging by your answer to the last question. My question was going to be: is it up or down on previous periods? There is also the incidence of detainee self-harm.

Mr Pezzullo: It might be that we take it on notice, because that will give us a degree of elapsed time so that I can fulfil my duty to brief my minister with a report that I have received. I owe him some advice. I think it would be possible for us to come back on notice with data about self-harm.

Senator BILYK: I think the rest probably need to go on notice, too: what is the incidence of mental and physical illness amongst detainees; how many events involving the physical restraint of detainees?

Mr Pezzullo: Is this all Nauru?

Senator BILYK: Yes.

Mr Pezzullo: Given the self-evident interaction that I have drawn attention to throughout the day with the so-called Moss review, I would prefer to take your questions on notice. Within the notice response period, we will see what we might be able to provide to the committee.

Answer:

The incidence of self-harm at Nauru Regional Processing Centre (RPC)

Data is available on the number of self-harm incidents at Nauru RPC since 2012. This data does not take into account variations in population at the RPC over this period.

| Location | 2012-2013 | 2013-2014 | 2014-2015 (as at 31 January 2015) |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| Nauru RPC | 97 | 55 | 129 |

The reasons for self-harming behaviours can be complex and can include:

- pre-existing mental health issues and/or experiences of torture or trauma; and
- factors such as dissatisfaction or uncertainty around immigration status.

Regardless of the cause, all detainees and transferees who self-harm, or threaten self-harm, receive support from an interdisciplinary team led by a mental health clinician.

The incidence of mental and physical illness at Nauru RPC

The most recent data, as provided by International Health and Medical Services, covers the period October to December 2014. The data indicates that during this period there were 242 instances of chronic health conditions amongst transferees as categorised by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. These conditions were arthritis, asthma, cardiovascular, kidney disease, depression, diabetes and oral disease. Some transferees may have more than one chronic health condition.

How many events involving physical restraint at Nauru RPC

As at 31 January 2015, there have been 66 incidents involving the use of physical restraint of a transferee since the commencement of services at Nauru RPC in September 2012.