

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 06 June 2017

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE17/064) - Closure of Manus RPC - Programme 1.5: IMA Offshore Management

Senator McKim, Nick (L&CA 135) asked:

Senator McKIM: In that case, we will deal with that tomorrow. I have some further questions on the Manus Island closure. Is the Australian government aware that there are amongst the detainees—or, in your terminology, the residents—on Manus Island a cohort of gay people?

Mr Pezzullo: I believe there are, and I am aware of that, yes.

Senator McKIM: Do you know how many there are?

Mr Pezzullo: I do not have that readily to hand. If the deputy commissioner or other officers do, they can assist me. I have seen it reported that there are some persons who self-identify, but I do not know how many people there are.

Senator McKIM: Would you have that figure available on notice? Would your information include it?

Mr Pezzullo: It might.

Senator McKIM: Could you take that on notice—

Mr Pezzullo: Yes.

Answer:

As the government of Papua New Guinea is responsible for transferees and refugees in Papua New Guinea, and in the interest of maintaining privacy, it is not appropriate for the Department of Immigration and Border Protection to comment.