

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 20 OCTOBER 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE14/389) PROGRAMME – 3.5 and 3.6: Illegal Maritime Arrival (IMA) Offshore Management

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

- a. Can the Government please provide an update on the progress of the Moss Inquiry into the allegations of sexual abuse on Nauru?
- b. Can the Government confirm the date for the release of the interim report?
- c. What is the department's protocol when dealing with very serious allegations such as these?
- d. How is it collecting evidence and requiring the production of records - i.e. no powers of compulsion etc, so what is the process for ensuring all relevant and accurate information is collected and accessed as part of this review?
- e. Does the inquiry have access to records (i.e. incident reports) on Nauru?
- f. Will Moss visit Nauru?
- g. Is the inquiry interviewing all service providers on Nauru?
- h. Is the inquiry speaking to asylum seekers?
- i. Is the information provided to the inquiry protected from disclosure under law(s) - i.e. Privacy laws re: personal information obviously applies, but are there any other confidentiality requirements of the inquiry.
- j. Will staff and other witnesses be protected by parliamentary privilege? if not, how is Mr Moss satisfied that staff will be protected?
- k. When was the Department first made aware of these allegations?
- l. When did the Department inform the Minister's office?
- m. When was the Government contractor Save the Children made aware of the allegations?
- n. How was it that the allegations were made public (in the Daily Telegraph) before Save the Children were given an opportunity to respond?
- o. How will the inquiry ensure that there is no disincentive for staff to raise genuine issues of concern on Nauru, given staff that have raised complaints have been removed without being given any reason?

Answer:

- a. Mr Moss is due to provide his final report to the Secretary by the end of January 2015
- b. Decisions about the release of Mr Moss's report will be made once the final report is delivered.
- c. Depending on the nature, extent and circumstances of such allegations, they will either be:
 - Referred for further investigation by a service provider;

- Investigated by the department;
 - The subject of an independent review and/or inquiry; and/or
 - Referred to appropriate authorities (e.g. police) for criminal investigation.
- d. This is an independent review. The manner in which the Review is conducted is a matter for Mr Moss.
 - e. The Department is fully co-operating with Mr Moss and will provide him with any documents he requires.
 - f. Mr Moss has visited Nauru.
 - g. This is an independent review. The manner in which the Review is conducted is a matter for Mr Moss.
 - h. This is an independent review. The manner in which the Review is conducted is a matter for Mr Moss.
 - i. This is an independent review. The manner in which the Review is conducted is a matter for Mr Moss.
 - j. This is an independent review. The manner in which the Review is conducted is a matter for Mr Moss.
 - k. Assuming this refers to the allegations relating to Save the Children staff, the department was first made aware on 30 September 2014.
 - l. Assuming this refers to the allegations relating to Save the Children staff, the Minister's Office was first made aware on 1 October 2014.
 - m. Assuming this refers to the allegations relating to Save the Children staff, Save the Children was first made aware on 2 October 2014.
 - n. This matter is the subject of a separate investigation.
 - o. This is an independent review. The manner in which the Review is conducted is a matter for Mr Moss.