

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 20 OCTOBER 2014

#### IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

#### **(SE14/392) PROGRAMME – 3.5 and 3.6: Illegal Maritime Arrival (IMA) Offshore Management**

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

Are detention staff trained to appropriately manage persons with mental illness or other mental health related problems, e.g. post-traumatic stress disorder?

What procedures are in place to appropriately manage persons who are at risk of suicide and/or self-harm?

Do persons in detention have access to medical mental health services?

What types of mental health services are available to them? Counselling? Medication?

How often do they access these services?

*Answer:*

Detention services staff receive mental health awareness and mental health policies training to assist with the management of persons with mental health concerns and referral for appropriate care by the Health Services Provider.

All detainees and transferees are supported under the department's Psychological Support Programme policy. This is the key policy for managing self-harm risk in immigration detention facilities and at the regional processing centres. Where a detainee or transferee presents a risk of self-harming behaviour, they receive an elevated level of support and engagement from a multi-disciplinary team, managed by a mental health clinician.

Detainees and transferees have access to onsite general practitioners, mental health nurses, counsellors and psychologists with access to psychiatrists as clinically indicated. Any detainee or transferee who is a survivor of torture or trauma is offered referral to specialist torture and trauma counselling providers.

Mental health services are accessed through regular onsite clinics and through external referral as clinically indicated.