

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 20 OCTOBER 2014

#### IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

#### **(SE14/467) PROGRAMME – 3.5 and 3.6: Illegal Maritime Arrival (IMA) Offshore Management**

Senator Hanson-Young (Written) asked:

- How many children are living with disability in immigration detention (in onshore and offshore facilities), including their disability 'type', ethnicity and age?
  - How many adults are living with disability in immigration detention (in onshore and offshore facilities), including their disability 'type', ethnicity and age?
- How does the DIBP ensure people with a disability, their families/carers, have appropriate access to disability related supports (e.g. aids/equipment, medication, therapies).
- How does the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) 'define' and 'assess/determine' disability?

*Answer:*

The department wishes to clarify its advice, provided at the hearing, that there were 291 people with disabilities in onshore immigration detention facilities. This number refers to disability type. The number of detainees with a disability is 268 and some detainees had more than one disability type.

As at 30 September 2014, there were 268 detainees with disabilities in onshore immigration detention facilities of which 219 were adults and 49 were minors; and 114 transferees with disabilities at regional processing centres of which 109 were adults and 5 were minors.

The disability types were:

- Amputation;
- Cognitive (eg dementia);
- Developmental (eg Asperger's disorder, autism, developmental delay);
- Functional impairment (eg reduced mobility, deformity, multiple sclerosis);
- Hearing impairment (eg hearing loss, deafness);
- Visual impairment (eg blindness of eye, visual impairment, coloboma); and
- Other (eg epilepsy and neuralgia).

Ethnicity data is not available. The top five nationalities were:

- Iranian, Stateless, Afghan, Iraqi and Pakistani in immigration detention facilities; and
- Iranian, Iraqi, Somalian, Afghan and Pakistani in regional processing centres.

The department's Health Services Provider (IHMS) is responsible for the assessment and management of detainee healthcare. Detainees with a potential or actual disability are identified during initial health screening and referred for further specialist assessment, diagnosis and support, including the provision of assistive devices as required.

For reporting purposes, IHMS record disabilities in a manner broadly consistent with Australian and International standards (Australian Bureau of Statistics and the World Health Organisation). A detainee is considered to be disabled if they have a diagnosed condition which restricts everyday living activities and is of a long lasting or permanent nature.