

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

### **SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 19 October 2015**

#### **IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO**

#### **(SE15/003) - (ABYAN) - Date IHMS was made aware of request for termination of pregnancy - Programme 1.5: IMA Offshore Management**

Senator Hanson-Young, Sarah (L&CA 23) asked:

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Do you have details as to when IHMS were first made aware that Abyan had requested a termination of her pregnancy?

Mr Skill: As I mentioned before, we can identify when IHMS made the department aware. Given that this individual is a refugee, we need her permission to access her health records on the island. That is the only way we can determine exactly when IHMS were made aware of her situation. We have requested that permission, but we are yet to receive that.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: The earliest that we can find is 1 September. You were not made aware until almost a month later. What happened for the four or five weeks between 1 September and 6 October?

Mr Skill: As would normally be the case, there will be a number of counselling sessions and opportunities to discuss the situation with medical professionals on Nauru. There will be a range of support mechanisms offered. I understand there was some torture and trauma counselling offered as well to the individual. I do believe that some of the difficulty in getting to a position for an informed referral to be made was a lack of engagement by the individual with the medical providers. A number of opportunities were provided and offered for assessments, consultations and so on, but my information is that it was difficult to get the individual to engage with them.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: So you have a brief to that effect—do you?

Mr Skill: I have some information and time lines with regard to the point at which various information and support was offered to the individual. I am happy to provide all I can on notice.

*Answer:*

IHMS was first made aware of Abyan's request to seek a termination of pregnancy on 3 September 2015.

Between 3 September and 6 October 2015, Abyan attended appointments with an IHMS general practitioner (GP), an IHMS mental health nurse and the torture and trauma counselling provider. She also met with the Settlement Service Provider, Connect. The Department is aware that Abyan also declined three other appointments, with an obstetrician, a GP and a mental health nurse in the same timeframe.