

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 12 February 2007

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(76) Output 1.3: Enforcement of Immigration Law

Senator Nettle (L&CA 61) asked:

In relation to the removals care plan, if you are able to provide any more information about how that operates and any examples of the instances where you have been able to assure medical care for people when they arrive, that would be appreciated.

Answer:

The requirements of the client are assessed on a case by case basis, by the removals officer in consultation with the client's case manager. The arrangements put in place will vary according to the circumstances of the client.

Post-removal support arrangements are more likely to be required for clients who have a serious health issue (including a psychiatric condition) or who are being returned to a country where they have few social or family ties.

The arrangements put in place may include; assistance with getting to the final destination (such as organising transport and financial assistance); arrangements for short term accommodation; special escorts (such as medical escorts); an appropriate medication regime and a referral to a medical practitioner on arrival; arrangements for a family member or medical/welfare staff to meet the individual on arrival and organise referrals to appropriate welfare/support agencies.

Below are two examples of care provided to clients on their arrival.

- A. The Department assisted a US national with special needs with post arrival care. The Department provided this assistance by contacting the US Consulate and asking them to provide information that would allow the client to continue treatment with appropriate support on his arrival in the US. The Department received information regarding US health care entitlements, client's previous place of residence and the client's family contacts. On arrival in the US social services representatives met with the client and facilitated treatment.
- B. Departmental staff in Kuala Lumpur collected relevant information on accommodation, social work services and income options to assist with facilitating the client's post arrival care. The client was provided with a list of welfare services and contacts. Staff in Kuala Lumpur liaised with the Malaysian Welfare Department to assist the client with accommodation and other welfare support. The client was also

provided with a small destitute allowance to assist him with immediate needs in Malaysia.

The Department arranged for representatives of a welfare organisation to meet the client at the airport on his arrival.