

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 9 FEBRUARY 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(46) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Hanson-Young (L&C 98) asked:

How many psychologists, counsellors and psychiatric nurses are working out of the medical facilities on Christmas Island at the moment?

Answer:

As at 9 February 2010, the providers of health services to people in immigration detention on Christmas Island, International Health and Medical Services (IHMS) and Indian Ocean Territories Health Service (IOTHS), had a total of 10 qualified mental health professionals, detailed as follows:

IOTHS

- one psychologist
- one counsellor
- one mental health nurse
- one social worker

IHMS

- one psychologist
- five mental health nurses

In cases where the mental health concerns about a person in immigration detention are identified as high, IHMS conducts case conferences with psychiatrists on the mainland to seek clinical advice and direction. When it is clinically necessary, people are transferred to the mainland to access psychiatric diagnostic and treatment services. This is consistent with health practices in regional areas of mainland Australia.