

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 9 FEBRUARY 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(47) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Hanson-Young (L&C 98-100) asked:

- a) Has anybody been removed from Christmas Island as a result of self-harm, have they been taken to Perth or to wherever else to access health care?

- b) Has there been an increase in the distribution of antidepressants or antipsychotic medication and how does the distribution at the moment compare to where it was six months ago?

Answer:

- a) From 1 January 2009 to 9 February 2010, five people in immigration detention were transferred from Christmas Island to the mainland to access additional mental health services due to heightened self-harm risk. Primarily, people are transferred to Perth. However, the final placement is dependant on the availability of services and people can be transferred to other locations for treatment.

- b) According to the Department's health service provider, International Health and Medical Services, from 1 January 2009 to 9 February 2010, the amount of antidepressant medication dispensed has increased. However, this is in proportion with the increase in the number of people in immigration detention on Christmas Island. There has been no increase in the amount of anti-psychotic medication dispensed.