

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 11 February 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE13/0313) PROGRAM – Internal Product

Senator Cash (Written) asked:

Are any items associated with the establishment and running of the processing centre, including accommodation that is being funded by other agencies, including from the Ausaid budget? If so, how much and what is it for.

Answer:

Nauru

The Australian Government has not promised to provide the Government of Nauru with anything in addition to the construction of the permanent processing centres.

The department, however, has made minor upgrades to Ward 4 and the dental area at the Republic of Nauru (RoN) Hospital to a total cost of \$51,278 to ensure these facilities are serviceable to transferees who require medical care at the hospital. The repairs to Ward 4 included painting, fly screen replacement, refurbishment of the toilet and shower area, new ceiling fans and gutter repairs. The repairs to the dental area included replacement of a mouldy ceiling, painting and new air-conditioning.

There is no commitment to build schools, hospitals, medical centres, desalination plants, or electricity generators for Nauru. There are no items associated with the establishment and running of the regional processing centres that are funded by other agencies.

While AusAID funds existing development assistance projects in Nauru, these do not have any connection to regional processing. Further details regarding these projects should be sought direct from AusAID.

Manus Island, Papua New Guinea

Clause 8 of the *Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Papua New Guinea and the Government of Australia, relating to the transfer to and assessment of persons in Papua New Guinea, and related issues* states that:

‘Separate to the Costs incurred for the specific operation of this MOU, the Participants (The Government of Papua New Guinea and Government of Australia) will develop a package of assistance focused on Manus Province and other bilateral cooperation, which will be in addition to the current allocation of Australian development cooperation assistance to PNG, and directed towards priorities which are consistent with the revised PNG-Australia Partnership for Development (endorsed by both Governments on 12 October 2011).’

This package of assistance is being developed by AusAID and questions regarding these commitments should be directed to AusAID.