

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 11 February 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE13/0498) PROGRAM – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Hanson-Young (Written) asked:

Offshore detention - MANUS - Who made the decision not to put doors on the men's toilets? What is the rationale for there being no doors on the single adult males' toilets? Who made the decision not to put doors on women and girl's dongas until two months after they arrived? On Manus, how many books does the kids' library have? What is the Department's KPI or contractual arrangement with Save the Children regarding the provision of books and schooling resources? What are the standards of education has DIAC has required to be provided to kids in Manus? Why does the kids' school not have air-conditioning? Which agency is responsible for decisions relating to air conditioning and what oversight does the Department have of such decisions? How many excursions each week are kids in Manus provided with? Please provide a breakdown of weekly excursions since the date when children were first removed to Manus. When is it projected that Manus will move to being an open centre with freedom of movement as proposed by the Houston Panel? Is the Manus Island hospital currently in a usable condition for more serious illnesses for detainees? How many times has it been used by IHMS in Manus for treating asylum seekers transferred there? How many people/times has a person been flown back to Australia for treatment from either Manus or Nauru? How many of these people were subsequently returned to the offshore sites of either Manus or Nauru?

Answer:

The pre-existing hard walled buildings did not have doors. This included the men's toilets. Doors were installed in all hard walled buildings as soon as supplies and tradespeople were available.

Doors have been installed on the single adult male's toilets. Damaged doors have been repaired.

The pre-existing hard walled buildings did not initially have doors installed and temporary solutions were put in place. The installation of fixed doors took longer than expected as tradespeople and materials were extremely limited.

The children's library now holds in excess of 400 books and associated school supplies catering for various schooling and reading levels. The first shipment of books and school supplies arrived in Manus on 12 March 2013; this shipment was supplemented by a second shipment on 21 March 2013.

When Save the Children has a requirement for school supplies and educational equipment they will liaise with the garrison service provider, G4S, for the procurement of those items. G4S have been contracted to undertake, amongst other things, procurement and logistics functions at the RPC.

Save the Children Australia has been contracted to provide educational services at the RPC. Australian registered and trained teachers are providing educational services to all school-age children. Given the varying needs, education levels and ages of the transferee children, all children attending the on-site school have been individually assessed and a learning plan has been put in place for each child.

Air conditioning was progressively installed in the school in the week between 8 and 15 February following a request from onsite service providers.

The Department works with on-site service providers to address infrastructure concerns as they arise.

Excursions for all families took place in the week commencing 21 February and in the week commencing 25 March. From 1 April 2013, one excursion to a local beach will take place every day, Monday to Friday.

The Government of Papua New Guinea is yet to finalise the administrative arrangements for the open RPC, including projected timelines of implementation.

Lorengau Hospital can provide some services covering surgery, general medicine, dental and pathology. The hospital can also provide acute care.

To 14 March 2013, 32 transferees have utilised dental and x-ray services at Lorengau Hospital. Pathology samples are being collected at the RPC by IHMS staff and being processed by the hospital laboratory. One transferee has been treated at the hospital as an in-patient and has subsequently returned to the RPC.

To 14 March 2013, six people had been transferred from Manus Island to Australia for medical treatment, not including six women who were transferred to Australia due to pregnancy. To 14 March 2013, no transferees had been returned to Manus following the completion of medical treatment.

To 14 March 2013, 12 people had been transferred from Nauru to Australia for medical treatment. To 14 March 2013, three transferees had been returned to Nauru following the completion of medical treatment.