

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES - 25 FEBRUARY 2014**

**IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO**

**(AE14/301) PROGRAMME – 4.1: Visa Compliance and Status resolution**

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

The “clarification” issued by Secretary Bowles notes that the sole remaining adviser will be able to draw on other specialist, professional and clinical advice as required by the Chief Medical Officer and the contracted detention health services provider International Health and Medical Services (IHMS).

How will this be done?

What will it cost?

Will there be a dedicated group of clinical professionals “on call” for this purpose?

What safeguards are there in place to ensure the advice of IHMS is not in conflict with the duty of care owed by the independent health advisor? Apart from asylum seeker health, what other immigration health issues does the Adviser consult on?

*Answer:*

Matters relating to the operation of the Independent Health Adviser were addressed in evidence at the Senate Estimates Committee Hearing on 25 February 2014. These matters are recorded in Hansard at pages 97-98 of the Committee’s hearing. The department has allocated a budget of \$100 000 for 2013-14.