

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 31 May 2013**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

**(BE13/0450) PROGRAM – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management**

Senator Cash (Written) asked:

What level of security is currently in place and what is planned? Has that been done in consultation with the government of PNG? What access will asylum seekers have to the rest of the Island? What is their status on the Island at the moment? Do they have visas, for example? If so, what kind?

*Answer:*

Security is provided by the Department's contracted service provider (G4S) and the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary. As such, Centre security is managed in close consultation with the Government of PNG.

Transferees have access supervised excursions to various locations and activities around the island. These excursions form part of a planned program of recreational activities which are adjusted according to the needs of the transferees.

Access to the rest of the island is a matter for the Government of PNG.

The PNG Government has exempted all persons transferred to the Manus Island RPC from the requirement that they hold a valid 'entry permit' for PNG and from being deemed to have unlawful status under the *Papua New Guinea Migration Act 1978*.