

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27-28 May 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE13/0559) PROGRAM – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Hanson-Young (Written) asked:

Please provide an update as to the status of the Manus Island hospital – what has been done to improve its expert staff levels and equipment since the government started moving people from Australia to offshore detention in Manus? Is the hospital currently being used by IHMS or Australian-Commonwealth contracted agencies for the care of asylum seekers living in the nearby detention centre? If not, what is the proposed date when it will be in a state that is able to be used?

Answer:

Enquiries about capacity building or other aid initiatives in relation to Lorengau Hospital on Manus Island should be directed to AusAID, as the relevant agency.

International Health and Medical Services (IHMS) regularly engage with Lorengau Hospital on Manus Island. This engagement has been around organising occasional services for clients and not in relation to providing equipment or training for hospital staff.

IHMS has referred transferees to the Lorengau hospital for minor dental procedures and continues to access the hospital for certain x-ray and pathology services.