

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 30 October 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(226) Output 1.5: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Nettle (L&CA 105) asked:

Have the mental health reports for the gentlemen on Nauru that we were talking about been made available to the detainees? A team of mental health professionals went and wrote the reports about the situation of mental health in Nauru. You were talking before with Senator Crossin about whether those reports were available. I was wondering whether they had been made available to the detainees.

Answer:

Neither person has ever been detained in Nauru, but have been there legally on special purpose visas. Professor Hickie has written separately to both persons about the observations and conclusions he and Dr Burke made and came to in respect of them personally, so as to protect the privacy of the other. The letter for one of the gentleman was sent directly to him by Professor Hickie and DIMA facilitated the delivery of the letter to the other gentleman in Nauru on 5 November 2006.