

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 15 October 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE12/0426) PROGRAM – 4.2: Onshore Detention Network

Senator Hanson-Young (L&CA 94) asked:

Has there been any independent assessment of the mental health of the seven children within the detention facilities whose parents have been given adverse security assessments? Has the department ever asked for or commissioned an independent assessment of the mental health of these children?

Answer:

Mental health care needs are assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Three of the children are currently attending counselling with an International Health and Medical Services (IHMS) psychologist. IHMS advises that there is a record of two of these children having had independent mental health assessments.

The remaining four children have been granted permanent residency. IHMS has no record of these children having had independent mental health assessments prior to the grant of permanent residency.