

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

### **SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 15 October 2012**

#### **IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO**

#### **(SE12/0574) PROGRAM – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management**

Senator Cash (written) asked:

I refer to the answer given to BE12/0464 which states that \$3.8 million has been spent on dental related expenses for asylum seekers between July 2011-May 2012. What sort of dental care is provided to asylum seekers? Is it only emergency dental care? Preventative dental care? Or does it extend to cosmetic dental procedures? What checks and balances are in place to ensure people aren't taking advantage of the system? I know for example that many people would like to have crowns or bridges on their teeth yet the cost is prohibitive so they have to make do. Is there any upper limit on the amount of dental care provided to each asylum seeker?

*Answer:*

Dental services for people in immigration detention are provided in accordance with a triage system developed by the Australian Dental Association representative on the Department's former Detention Health Advisory Group.

People in immigration detention are provided with dental care for the relief of pain and infection and not for cosmetic purposes. The need for dental treatment is determined by health clinicians on a case by case basis. There is no set expenditure limit.