

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 November 2013

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE13/0041) PROGRAMME – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Hanson-Young (L&CA 83) asked:

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Has IHMS given any advice to the department in relation to the accommodation of pregnant women?

Mr Bowles: I would have to take something as specific as that on notice. They provide advice to us on a range of issues all the time.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Has IHMS given you any advice, as a matter of practice, on the appropriate accommodation of pregnant women?

Mr Bowles: I will take the specifics on notice, but we rely on IHMS as our medical provider for all things to do with people in detention.

Answer:

The Department receives advice from its contracted Health Services Provider, International Health and Medical Services, in relation to the management and placement of pregnant women in immigration detention on a case by case basis. In line with community standards, babies are not delivered on Christmas Island.