

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 November 2013

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE13/0043) PROGRAMME – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Hanson-Young (L&CA 84) asked:

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Can you confirm whether it is correct that a mother has been transferred from Christmas Island to Darwin and her three children under the age of 12 have remained on Christmas Island. Mr Bowles: We will take that on notice.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Thank you. Would that be a scenario that would occur, though? Mr Bowles: We will take that on notice. I cannot comment on a specific case like that.

Answer:

From time to time, a child may remain on Christmas Island while a parent or guardian is transferred to the Australian mainland for medical treatment. In this situation, temporary care may be provided by another adult relative or friend. Where no adult relative or friend is available, and it is not appropriate for the child to accompany the parent while they receive medical treatment, temporary care and support is provided through MAXimus Solutions, the department's contracted service provider for unaccompanied minor support and independent observer services.