

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 November 2013

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE13/0106) PROGRAMME – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Hanson-Young (Written) asked:

What health care, pre-natal and post-natal services are provided to pregnant women in offshore detention facilities?

Answer:

As at 19 November 2013 specialist International Health and Medical Services (IHMS) staff at the Nauru Offshore Processing Centre (OPC) included a dedicated midwife, two general nurses with midwifery qualifications, a paediatric nurse and a Medical Officer and Senior Medical Officer both with paediatric emergency experience.

Pregnancies are assessed on a case-by-case basis and a care plan is designed by IHMS staff in consultation with the Republic of Nauru (RoN) hospital.

The hospital has two delivery beds, six postnatal beds and a special care baby unit with a neonatal incubator, infant warmer, oxygen, standard neonatal resuscitation equipment and nasogastric feeding capability. The hospital has ultrasound capability for anomaly and dating scans performed during the course of pregnancies. Caesarean sections and other surgical interventions, and pain relief options are also available. Services provided at the hospital are supported by midwives, a Senior Medical Officer and a General Paediatrician.

Female Illegal Maritime Arrivals are not transferred to the Manus Offshore Processing Centre.