

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 November 2013

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE13/0332) PROGRAMME – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

Are families being separated upon arrival at Christmas Island? If so, why?

Answer:

The department aims to accommodate all members of a family unit together wherever possible.

In situations where it is not possible or appropriate to accommodate the family unit together, every effort is made by the department and the detention service provider to facilitate visits and other forms of communication between the family members until such time as they can be reunited.