

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 November 2013**

**IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO**

**(SE13/0337) PROGRAMME – 4.2: Onshore Detention Network**

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

The Sydney Morning Herald made reports of a detainee giving birth in Brisbane's Mater Hospital by a caesarian section having limited visitation with her newborn child. Exactly what access was the detainee permitted to see her newborn? Whose decision was it to restrict the Mother's access to the newborn? What information and advice was provided by the hospital regarding the mother's access to her newborn? Is the matter currently being investigated? If so, who decided the matter required investigation?

*Answer:*

The Department does not believe this media report to be accurate and believes the mother was not restricted in having access to her newborn child after her discharge from hospital.