

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

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

**IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO**

**(SE13/0344) PROGRAMME – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management**

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

What procedures are in place to ensure adequate health checks and vaccinations can occur within the 48 hour time frame for turnaround between arrival and transfer to an offshore facility?

*Answer:*

Prior to transfer to an Offshore Processing Centre (OPC), Illegal Maritime Arrivals (IMAs) undergo a Health Induction Assessment (HIA). The HIA includes public health screening, including a chest x-ray, screening for pre-existing medical conditions, a Mental State Examination and pathology screening. No chest x-ray is required for children under 11 years of age and those who are pregnant. The possibility of tuberculosis in these groups is addressed through a TB questionnaire and physical examination.

Transferees commence a course of catch-up vaccinations before transfer to an OPC, with further vaccinations occurring after arrival at the OPC.