JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON AUSTRALIA'S IMMIGRATION DETENTION NETWORK

Q37

Health Fears and Asylum Seekers

Question: Please provide an update as to the communicable diseases that have been detected in any of the detention facilities for the last three financial years.

Answer: The Department's Health Service Provider, International Health and Medical Services (IHMS), has provided the below tables, which list communicable diseases detected in irregular maritime arrivals at immigration detention facilities for the last two financial years. Data for 2008-09 is unavailable as this was prior to changes in 2009 to IHMS' data recording, which enabled electronic recording and recall of communicable disease data (prior to this, reporting was free text only, against individual client records, with no agreed common descriptions or classifications).

Please note, in all but one of these cases, the communicable disease was detected during the person's health induction assessment, which is generally completed within 72 hours of arrival on Christmas Island.

Table 1 - Communicable Diseases Detected in IMA Cohort 2009-10

Disease	Status	Number
Chickenpox		1
Chlamydia		3
Gonorrhoea		2
Hepatitis B		9
Influenza		3
Malaria		1
Shingles		3
Syphilis		8
Tuberculosis	Active	1
	Latent	2
Typhoid		2
TOTAL		**35**

Table 2 - Communicable Diseases Detected in IMA Cohort 2010-11

Disease	Status	Number
Chickenpox		1
Chlamydia		12
Dengue		1
Gonorrhoea		2
Hepatitis A		2
Hepatitis B		30
Hepatitis C		9
Influenza		4
Leprosy		1
Malaria		1
Pertussis		3
Ross River Fever		1
Shingles		8
Syphilis		31
Tuberculosis	Active	2
	Latent	49
TOTAL		**157**