

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 21-22 MAY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE12/0387) Program 4.2: Onshore Detention Network

Senator Cash asked:

I refer to the Commonwealth Ombudsman report entitled “Detention arrangements – the transfer of 22 detainees from Villawood Immigration Detention Centre to the Metropolitan Remand and Reception Centre Silverwater” dated April 2012 and I ask: What happens on these visits to the correctional centre? Does the departmental officer meet with all 22 detainees? For how long? Does the official complete any paperwork or assessment of the detainees?

Answer.

As noted in the response to the Ombudsman by the department in April 2012, a review of current departmental transfer policies and procedures has been undertaken which also considered the findings and recommendations relating to the 2011 Silverwater transfers. As a result, the PAM3 instruction has been updated to reflect current case management practices and is in the process of being finalised.

The updated instruction supports current departmental policy which requires case managers to contact each of their clients, (not necessarily in person,) at least monthly to conduct a Case Review. The time taken during this contact is dependent upon the complexity of the client's case. The purpose of the case review is to ensure that the client is progressing towards status resolution while also identifying and addressing any changes to the client's circumstances that may impact on the client's case. The case review is completed by the case manager and stored in the departmental Compliance, Case Management, Detention and Settlement information system.