

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 21-22 MAY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE12/0388) 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: PAM3 states “All persons in immigration detention accommodated in a correctional institution shall be visited by the nominated departmental office within 24 hours of arrival at the correctional centre” – why did this not happen in this instance?

Answer:

The visits did not happen due to the demanding environment at the Villawood Detention Centre in the period following 21 April 2011, including fires and ongoing disturbances. Visits commenced on Wednesday 27 April.