

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

### **BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 21-22 MAY 2012**

#### **IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO**

#### **(BE12/0390) 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 "regular visits by the nominated department officer are required. These visits must include contact, at a MINIMUM of once a week, and a personal visit, at a minimum, of once every 28 days". I understand that two detainees were visited on 13 May and 3 June for the purpose of discussing their requests for removal from Australia and to progress the arrangements, was there any contact with the other 20 detainees during these visits? Why not?

*Answer:*

All 22 clients that were transferred to the Metropolitan Remand and Reception Centre were first visited by departmental officers on 28 April 2011. Further visits were conducted with all detainees on 9 and 10 May 2011.

On 11 May 2011, 15 of the 22 clients were transferred from the Metropolitan Remand and Reception Centre and placed at Villawood Immigration Detention Centre and Maribyrnong Immigration Detention Centre as they had not been charged by the AFP at that point. On 4 May 2011, the remaining seven clients were charged with offences, refused bail and remanded in criminal custody at the Metropolitan Remand and Reception Centre. The requirements under PAM 3 for these seven clients were no longer applicable as they were no longer in immigration detention in a correctional facility.