

**JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON AUSTRALIA'S
IMMIGRATION DETENTION NETWORK**

***Q25 &
Q26***

Question:

25) Has the Department been advised of any incidents of physical abuse or threats made against SERCO staff or IHMS staff within the detention network by detainees or other persons in each of the past 3 years?

26) If yes:

- (a) On what date was the Department made aware of these incidents?
- (b) In which centres did these incidents occur?
- (c) Have any charges being laid in respect of these incidents and if so what is the current status of these charges?

Answer:

25) A small number of allegations against IHMS staff have been made through the Ombudsman's Office, Australian Red Cross, and the Australian Human Rights Commission. All of these allegations, upon investigation by the department and IHMS, have been unproven.

There were 15 client allegations against Serco staff, two client allegations against contractors and one staff allegation against a Serco Officer in the period until 30 June 2011.

- 26) (a). The department was notified on the same day the allegations were reported.
- (b). Five reported incidents of abuse at Christmas Island Immigration Detention Centre (IDC), three incidents at Northern IDC, three incidents at Villawood IDC, two at Perth IDC and one each at Maribyrnong IDC, Curtin IDC, Brisbane Immigration Transit Accommodation, Construction Camp Alternative Place of Detention (APOD) and Gwalia Lodge APOD.
- (c). The police authorities were notified on three occasions. To the extent that the department is aware, no charges have been laid in relation to these incidents.