

**Question on notice no. 198**

**Portfolio question number: BE21-198**

**2021-22 Budget estimates**

**Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, Home Affairs Portfolio**

**Senator Stirling Griff:** asked the Australian Border Force on 9 June 2021—

Recommendation 8 of the Human Rights Commission report states: 'The Department of Home Affairs should commission a group of independent mental health experts to conduct a comprehensive review of the mental health care provided in immigration detention'. Given the BluGibbon team appears to be mostly made up of recruitment specialists and no-one on the team is a practicing doctor, what is BluGibbon's expertise in assessing mental health delivery in a detention setting?

**Answer —**

Please see the attached answer.

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
BUDGET ESTIMATES  
24-25 MAY 2021**

**Home Affairs Portfolio  
Australian Border Force**

**Program 3.5: Onshore Compliance and Detention**

**BE21-198 - BluGibbon - Expertise in Assessing Mental Health Delivery**

Senator Stirling Griff asked:

Recommendation 8 of the Human Rights Commission report states: “The Department of Home Affairs should commission a group of independent mental health experts to conduct a comprehensive review of the mental health care provided in immigration detention”. Given the BluGibbon team appears to be mostly made up of recruitment specialists and no-one on the team is a practicing doctor, what is BluGibbon’s expertise in assessing mental health delivery in a detention setting?

*Answer:*

BluGibbon engaged appropriately qualified clinical professionals to conduct the review of mental health services in onshore immigration detention facilities. The specialist team included:

- a Specialist Psychiatrist with a special interest in psychodynamic psychotherapy and personality disorders; and
- a Senior Clinical Governance doctor in Australia, who is a Research Associate at a Department of Global Health and Population school within a university.