

**Question on notice no. 200**

**Portfolio question number: BE21-200**

**2021-22 Budget estimates**

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

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

The resulting report does not seem particularly rigorous – the contract ran for two months and, in that time, only two detainees were interviewed (via video) at one facility, and maybe 8

(?) front-line medical staff. Recommendation 8 of the Human Rights Commission report called for a 'comprehensive' review. Even with COVID restrictions, interviews with two detainees at a single facility and a handful of frontline staff over two months is unsatisfactory and arguably undermines the reliability and merit of the report. How is this report 'comprehensive'?

**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**

**BE21-200 - BluGibbon - Report**

Senator Stirling Griff asked:

The resulting report does not seem particularly rigorous – the contract ran for two months and, in that time, only two detainees were interviewed (via video) at one facility, and maybe 8 (?) front-line medical staff. Recommendation 8 of the Human Rights Commission report called for a “comprehensive” review. Even with COVID restrictions, interviews with two detainees at a single facility and a handful of frontline staff over two months is unsatisfactory and arguably undermines the reliability and merit of the report. How is this report “comprehensive”?

*Answer:*

The Department commissioned a review of mental health services in held onshore detention facilities (the Review) from 7 May 2020 to 12 July 2020, prior to the release of the Human Rights Commission report. The Review considered the mental health care model for the current cohort in accordance with the Immigration Detention Health Services contract. The Review was undertaken by an appropriately qualified clinical team that included a senior Psychiatrist and a senior Clinical Governance doctor. The Review involved interviews with multiple stakeholders and any detainees (whom had experience of mental health services in detention) that volunteered to participate, in order to assess how mental health services are being delivered and to inform the scope of future contract arrangements.