

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 23 February 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE15/115) - Serco Staff - Programme 2.1 Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance (Administered)

Senator Carr, Kim (L&CA) written:

- a. There have been media reports that the number of incidents involving Serco staff and detainees has increased. How many incidents have occurred over the past 18 months?
 - Is this up or down on previous periods?
 - Has there been an increase over the past year?
- b. What is the incidence of detainee self-harm?
- c. What is the incidence of mental and physical illness amongst detainees?
- d. How many events involving the physical restraint detainees have occurred?
- e. Have there been any reports of detainees physically or verbally assaulting Serco employees?
- f. Have any of these events of physical or verbal assault involved a detainee's bodily fluids?
- g. How many OH&S reports have been made concerning Serco employees in the performance of their duties under the service agreement with the Commonwealth?
- h. What is the incidence of Serco immigration services employees making WorkCover claims? How many of those claims relate to the mental health impacts of their work?
- i. What is the turn-over of Serco immigration services employees? What is the average length of employment?

Answer:

- a. Serco regularly report to the department on a range of measures, one of which is lost-time injuries. Assault by detainee is identified as one of the categories. The number of lost-time injuries as a result of this category for the past two years is:
 - 2013 – 5 lost-time injuries identified as assault by detainee
 - 2014 – 8 lost-time injuries identified as assault by detainee
- b. There have been 385 reported instances of self-harm for the period 1 July 2014 to 31 January 2015 in all immigration detention facilities in Australia.
- c. The most recent health data set for immigration detention facilities in Australia, as provided by International Health and Medical Services, covers the period October to December 2014. The data indicates that during this period a total of 607 detainees had a chronic health condition as categorised by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. These conditions included arthritis, asthma, cancer, cardiovascular, kidney disease, depression, diabetes and oral disease.
- d. For the period 1 July 2014 to 31 January 2015 there were 1144 recorded incidents involving physical restraint.
- e. Please refer to answer a.
- f. Further to answer a above, this level of detail is not reported on.

- g. Further to answer a above, whilst the specific number of OH&S reports made by Serco employees is not reported on, the total number of lost-time injuries for the last two years is as follows:
 - 2013 - 94 total lost-time injuries
 - 2014 – 69 total lost-time injuries
- h. Serco staff WorkCover claims is matter for Serco.
- i. Serco's staff turnover or average length of employment for staff is a matter for Serco.