

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 08 February 2016

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE16/157) - Serco guards training - Programme 1.3: Compliance and Detention

Senator Carr, Kim (L&CA) written:

The same report recommends that Serco guards “should be educated regarding the enormous burden of mental health problems being experienced by the traumatised children living in detention” and “should refrain from wearing their uniforms when dropping kids off to school or taking them on excursions given the stigmatisation that ensues”.

How does the Department propose to respond to this recommendation?

What training do Serco guards working with children currently undertake before being allowed to work in these facilities?

Answer:

The Department is considering the recommendations of the AHRC report in order to provide a considered response.

Prior to being allowed to work in facilities with children, Serco Detainee Service Officers are required to:

- have the necessary Working with Children checks prior to their commencement in the facility and must comply with applicable State and Territory Child Protection Legislation;
- undertake mental health awareness training and refresher courses on a regular basis to assist detainees identified as requiring additional support; and
- undertake the initial Serco training course that includes ‘Working with Minors’ training.