

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 25 May 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE15/023) - Glass taken into detention centre - Programme 1.3: Compliance and Detention

Senator Hanson-Young, Sarah (L&CA 64) asked:

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Have any staff at the centre been dismissed over this incident?

Mr Outram: No.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Have any staff been stood down over this incident?

Mr Outram: No.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Mr Pezzullo, I am not sure who would be responsible for this question either, but I would like to know how many staff across the network have been dismissed for inappropriate behaviour overall. There have been a number of reports of inappropriate use of social media and attitudes expressed towards asylum seekers in the press. I would like to know how many staff have been dismissed or disciplined in the last 12 months.

Mr Pezzullo: I stand to be corrected by Ms Dorrington, but I am not aware of any instances of departmental staff, and so your reference to staff I am taking to extend to service providers.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Yes, contracted staff.

Mr Pezzullo: As I undertook to do earlier today, we will try to get back to you through the course of these proceedings. We might have to speak to both our service provider liaison folks and, potentially, the companies themselves because I think you have also asked about disciplinary proceedings. We will seek to come back to you within these proceedings. If we fail to do that—and I will apologise in advance if we do—we will take it on notice.

Answer:

No Departmental staff have been dismissed or stood down over the incident in question.

Serco Australia Pty Ltd

For the period of 1 May 2014 to 25 May 2015:

- A total of 53 Serco personnel employed in relation to the Facilities and Detainees Services Contract were dismissed (excluding redundancies). Of the 53 dismissals, eight related to misconduct towards detainees.

Transfield Services (Australia) Pty Ltd

Due to the reporting system limitations, the Department is only able to provide full year data for 2014 and year to date data for 2015.

During the 2014 calendar year, a total of 223 Transfield staff employed in relation to the Garrison and Welfare Services at Regional Processing Countries Contract were dismissed (excluding redundancies). Of these, 18 involved misconduct towards transferees.

Between 1 January 2015 and 26 May 2015, a total of 179 Transfield staff have been dismissed (excluding redundancies). Of these, 13 involved misconduct towards transferees.

In respect of disciplinary action, service providers are responsible for their own human resources management and as such holds all records associated with any such action. Records associated with the management of individual staff are held by the service providers throughout the onshore and offshore networks. These can be provided to the department on request if they relate to a specific incident, allegation or concern.

Fulfilling this request would be an unreasonable diversion of resources given the required timeframes, the broad nature of the request and the number of service provider staff employed across the onshore and offshore networks.