

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 25 May 2015**

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

**(BE15/167) - Visits Policy at MITA - Programme 1.1: Border Enforcement**

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

• Please outline the changes to visiting procedures at the MITA detention centre. What were the reasons for these changes? Was this an independent decision of SERCO or was DIBP involved in the decision?

*Answer:*

The Melbourne Immigration Transit Accommodation (MITA) Visitors Management system has been revised to be consistent across the immigration detention network.

The Visitor Management system at MITA has changed to a booking system where visitors can book before 1.00pm the day prior to a visit and provide the name of the detainees they wish to visit. A maximum capacity for the visits area has been defined to ensure the safety and privacy of visitors. All visitors to an immigration detention facility are required to beforehand advise the name of the person they wish to visit.

Visiting hours at the Melbourne Immigration Transit Accommodation remain from 2pm to 8pm daily.

The change to a booking system reflects the contractual arrangements between the Department and Serco. The detention service provider manages a visitor booking system to ensure equitable access, and also to ensure the safety and security of detainees and visitors.

Current conditions for visiting an immigration detention facility can be found at the following link: <http://www.border.gov.au/Busi/Comp/Immigration-detention/visiting-a-facility>