

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 17 October 2016

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE16/051) - Improvement notices - Perth Immigration Detention and Adelaide Immigration transit centre - Programme 1.4: IMA Onshore Management

Senator Pratt, Louise (L&CA 125) asked:

Mr Venugopal: I can answer your question regarding the improvement notices, though. In the 2015-16 financial year, Comcare issued two improvement notices regarding risks at the Perth Immigration Detention Centre and the Adelaide immigration transit centre.

Senator PRATT: What were those issues in relation to?

Mr Venugopal: They were largely to do with our risk assessments, because of the significant change in the cohort of detainees there—with the increase and change in their demographics particularly.

Senator PRATT: And had there been incidents, previous to those improvement notices needing to be issued?

Mr Venugopal: I do not think there were specific incidents in relation to those specific matters for which we received improvement notices.

Senator PRATT: Are you able to provide reasons, again, as to why they were issued?

Mr Venugopal: Broadly speaking, they were issued in relation to risk management practices—in relation to whether there were appropriate risk assessments in place for those two detention centres.

Senator PRATT: So that risk assessment did not take place in response to any particular event or a clearance?

Mr Venugopal: There are risk assessments that are done on a regular basis—on a daily basis—several times—

Senator PRATT: Yes, I can understand why that would be the case. But you also need to do them after a set of special events.

Mr Pezzullo: I think we will need to take this on notice. The improvement notice is a result of Comcare's investigation into a particular workplace incident involving, if I may say, death or another matter, because it could be serious injury, or the improvement notices perhaps arose out of a more systems view, if you like, or a review that Comcare did of end-to-end systems—without reminding myself of what the improvement notices actually state as to their provenance.

Senator PRATT: Yes, well, if you could take—

Mr Pezzullo: We will take that on notice.

Senator PRATT: And how quickly you responded. But I can put those on notice, if that helps?

Mr Pezzullo: Thank you.

Answer:

And had there been incidents, previous to those improvement notices needing to be issued?

No

So that risk assessment did not take place in response to any particular event or a clearance?

No – the risk assessments did not take place in response to any particular event or clearance.

Were they improvement notices from specific events or from routine assessments being undertaken?

No - Both improvement notices related to site inspections by Comcare.

And how quickly you responded....

The Department has a legal requirement to respond to a Notice within a specified timeframe determined by the appointed Comcare Inspector. One Notice was responded to by the specified due date and the other Notice was responded to within one business day of the specified due date.