

Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

Agency - Comcare

DEEWR Question No.EW0299_12

Senator Abetz asked on 30/05/2011, Hansard page 96.

Question

Draft Staff To Detainee Ratio

Senator ABETZ: Yes, of course, sorry. I stand corrected. So in relation to Pontville have you made any of those assessments to see if they are compliant et cetera? Mr Kibble: Not that I am aware of. Senator ABETZ: If you could take that question on notice, and whether or not any draft staff to detainee ratio has been provided or considered for the Pontville centre and your belief or otherwise as to the adequacy of that.

Answer

Comcare has provided the following response

On 3 May 2011, Comcare undertook a site visit in conjunction with Defence to the proposed new immigration detention centre at Pontville, Tasmania. The exterior of the pre-existing buildings and surrounding grounds for the proposed detention facility were inspected.

Asbestos (known to have been at the site in the past) has been completely removed by Defence, who confirm that the site is now asbestos-free. Comcare is satisfied that there are no work health and safety concerns.

The site is yet to be fitted out by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship to accommodate people in immigration detention. Therefore the staff to detainee ratio and the centre's adequacy to provide for those numbers has not been explored.