

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 February 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(64) Output 1.3: Enforcement of Immigration Law

Senator Nettle asked:

- 1) Has there been any problems with illicit drugs being used in detention centres?
- 2) How is DIMA dealing with GSL regarding the use of drugs in detention centres?

Answer:

- 1) Illegal drugs have been found within immigration detention facilities. Both the Department and the Detention Services Provider are committed to reducing the instances of this occurring.
- 2) The Detention Services Provider has an established set of operational procedures it follows dealing with prohibited items, including illegal drugs, in immigration detention facilities. Developed in conjunction with the Department, these operational procedures aim to minimise the introduction and use of illegal drugs in the detention environment by:
 - ensuring that incidents of the use of and trafficking in illegal drugs are reported to appropriate authorities;
 - providing guidelines for staff on how to confiscate and manage/store illegal drugs which may be required as evidence in subsequent police investigations;
 - providing a case management system for detainees who are identified as having a drug dependency;
 - providing guidelines which support staff in their efforts to minimise illegal drugs and promote a drug free detention environment; and
 - providing guidelines which support staff to deal with detainees who may be involved with illegal drugs.

In addition, the Department has sought to be included as part of the Australian Council of Prison Health Service's National Corrections Drug Strategy to gain an insight into the management of this issue and its application in a detention setting.