

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE12/0347) Program 4.2: Onshore Detention Network

Senator Cash asked:

On 24 October 2011 an incident was reported online which involved some 100 asylum seekers at Scherger. It is understood that two detainees and a security guard were hospitalised. What has happened to these young men? Have they been charged? If not, why not? Will the department be recommending to the Minister that these men be refused visas under the provisions of s.501?

Answer:

On 22 October 2011, an altercation between a Serco officer and some clients occurred. The situation escalated and it is estimated that up to 190 clients were involved.

The Serco officer sustained an injury and was taken to hospital for treatment. Two clients also received treatment in hospital for injuries sustained during the incident.

Both clients remain in detention.

Queensland Police and the AFP have concluded their investigations and no charges will be laid.

The Department does not disclose information regarding a client's case. However, all clients have their claims assessed based on information provided and appeal options are available to them.