QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE12/0388) Program 4.2: Onshore Detention Network

Senator Cash asked:

I refer to the article in the online Herald Sun of 18 January 2012 entitled "Detention Staff detail Drug Use and Assaults" - Please provide details of how many detainees have escaped from Maribyrnong Immigration Detention Centre in the past three years? Please include date of escape; immigration status; date of recapture, sanctions imposed as a result of escaping, etc. How many of them are still at large?

Answer:

People held in immigration detention are in administrative, not correctional detention. There are no provisions for the department to impose sanctions on detainees who have escaped. Actions taken by detainees, including escape or attempted escape, are taken into account when reviewing their Security Risk Rating which may impact on their placement and what activities / excursions they can attend.

In addition, if a person escapes from an immigration detention facility they may be prosecuted by the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions for a criminal act. Any criminal conviction may adversely affect that person's character assessment and may therefore impact upon the grant of any future visas.

The attached table provides details of escapes from the Maribyrnong Immigration Detention Centre in the last three years. All persons who escaped were unlawful non-citizens.

Date	No. of clients who escaped	Current Status
09 May 2010	1	1 has not been located
16 May 2010	3	**2 located on 14/12/2011** 1 has not been located
05 October 2010	1	**1 located on 17/03/2011**
05 December 2010	3	**1 located on 05/12/2010** **1 located on 03/03/2011** 1 has not been located
31 December 2010	1	**1 located on 02/08/2011**
12 January 2011	3	3 have not been located
04 July 2011	3	**3 located on 04/07/2011**
30 August 2011	2	**1 located on 30/08/2011** 1 has not been located
18 September 2011	1	1 has not been located
07 January 2012	2	2 have not been located
Total	**20**	**10 located** **10 have not been located**