

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

### **ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012**

#### **IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO**

#### **(AE12/0389) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management**

Senator Cash asked:

I refer to an article in the Herald Sun on January 20th 2012 which states "The revolving door at Maribyrnong IDC has forced three internal security reviews that recommended significant changes". Can you confirm that there have been three internal security reviews at Maribyrnong? Did Serco undertake these security reviews? Did Serco provide the Department with copies of the security review and if not, why not? What recommendations came out of each of the reviews and have these recommendations been implemented? What are the "additional anti climb" measures referred to in the article? Is this an electric fence? The article refers to "two Vietnamese nationals who had served sentences for drug related offences". Is this correct? How does someone manage to escape through an electric fence?

*Answer:*

There have been three internal security reviews at Maribyrnong IDC, which were undertaken by Serco. The Department has received and considered each of these security reviews.

The reviews contain a number of both operational and infrastructure recommendations in regard to security arrangements at the Centre. These recommendations have been progressively implemented.

The additional anti-climb referred to in the article relates to the replacement of two perimeter fences with anti-climb fences. Anti climb fences are not electric but are made from materials that make them difficult to climb. The first replacement perimeter fence was completed in February 2012 and the second replacement fence completed in March 2012.

The Department can confirm that two Vietnamese nationals absconded from MIDC on 7 January 2012. At the time of the incident a wide range of security arrangements existed at MIDC to support the good management and order of the site. This included a range of physical detection and deterrent devices including palisade fencing, microphonics and photo electric beams. The perimeter of all zones was and continues to be illuminated and monitored by Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras. This security infrastructure was based on the risk profile of clients in the centre. Following escapes in 2010, a number of security reviews were undertaken jointly between the Detention Service Provider, Serco and the Department and these determined additional risk mitigation strategies including the installation of an Energised Detection and Deterrence System (EDDS) to the existing inner palisade fence at MIDC. The EDDS installation was only partially completed and the detainees

were able to manoeuvre around the edge of the EDDS. Now that the EDDS installation is complete, the system provides a continuous electronic barrier.