

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE12/0406) Program 4.2: Onshore Detention Network

Senator Cash asked:

Have any interpreters been counselled or fired for inappropriate fraternisation or communication with detainees? Or smuggling/taking unauthorised items into detention facilities? If so, how many? When did this occur and what was the nature of the unauthorised behaviour engaged in? If interpreters have been counselled or fired has this led to a change in policy regards to employing former detainees as interpreters?

Answer:

One interpreter has been banned from future deployments after a pattern of inappropriate behaviour, including socialising with clients. The interpreter lodged a complaint with Fair Work Australia which the Department successfully defended.

On occasion, interpreters have been counseled for taking personal mobile phones into immigration detention facilities. However, an exact number of incidences is not available.

There have been no changes to the recruitment policy as a result of these incidents.