

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE12/0448) Program 5.1: Settlement Services for Migrants and Refugees

Senator Cash asked:

The Richmond report states at page 10 /11: “At a time of increased numbers, larger than previous surges and significant changes in the characteristics of the Irregular Maritime Arrival cohort, the right balance is important. There is a real risk that the HSS model will continue to have difficulty in coping with and responding to the needs of single adult males and Unaccompanied Humanitarian Minors and may require modification. At the same time recent DIAC initiatives such as community detention and programs for unaccompanied minors which also involve outsourcing to Providers may increase DIAC’s coordination risks in and around HSS. Irrespective however, of enhancements to the service delivery model under HSS or elsewhere, critical elements which require improvement are the DIAC placement referral policies and procedures as clients are managed from detention to the community. “Is the Department aware of neighbourhood disputes with HSS clients that have resulted in the police attending? If so, on how many occasions?”

Answer:

Over the last six months, the department has been notified, via the Critical Incident Reports, of four incidents where Humanitarian Settlement Services (HSS) clients were involved in a neighbourhood dispute which resulted in police attending.