

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 23-24 MAY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE11/0348) Program 4.2: Onshore Detention Network

Senator Cash asked:

I refer to the answer given to QoN 197 from the February Additional Estimates, which states that “as at 28 February 2011, 113 clients have absconded since August 2008. 75 clients were relocated and the remaining 38 are still at large”. Please provide details of the 38 detainees who are still at large – where did they abscond from, on what dates did they abscond, and what ongoing efforts are being made to locate them and return them to detention facilities?

Answer:

In the period August 2008 to 30 June 2011, 142 clients absconded from immigration detention. As at 15 August 2011, 58 clients had not been located.

Please see the table in Attachment A detailing when and from where they absconded.

Clients can be relocated as a result of a search by the detention service provider, by the police, by the Department during a compliance field activity or through self presentation to the Department.

DIAC, Serco and the police work closely together to gather and analyse all available intelligence on people who escape from immigration detention as part of efforts to locate them. This includes, for example, consideration of any family members, friends or other community support the person may have within Australia. The Department also uses information gathered through the Immigration Dob-in Line to assist with location efforts. If any relevant information about the location of the person is received, the matter is escalated for a high priority response.