

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 24 MAY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE11/0491) Program 4.2: Onshore Detention Network

Senator Cash (L&CA 85-86) asked:

In relation to the recent disturbances on Christmas Island and Villawood, have the debriefs of all parties involved resulted in any requirements for change?

Answer:

Clients and staff affected by the disturbances on Christmas Island and Villawood have had access to both formal and informal debriefing together with opportunities to engage in structured and ad-hoc counselling services after the incidents occurred.

As a result of the disturbances the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship announced an independent arms-length review of the circumstances surrounding the incidents. The review, which has been undertaken by Ms Helen Williams AO and Dr Allan Hawke AC, has been investigating a range of issues associated with the management and security arrangements at each of these facilities and is now drawing to a close. It is expected that the reviewers will report their findings to the Minister shortly.

Until that review process is finalised, the Department is not in a position to provide details on what, if any, changes are required at the facilities on Christmas Island and at Villawood.