

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 24 MAY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE11/0683) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash asked:

What action was taken for any incidents at Leonora detention facility?

Answer:

In all cases, the alleged victims are given the option of reporting the alleged incident to Police. However, Police action is only initiated if there is a party willing to request that charges be laid.

Of the 19 alleged incidents of violence between detainees occurring over the period 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011, 17 were resolved through mediation and two were referred to the Western Australia (WA) Police for investigation.

Of the two cases referred to WA Police, one is still under investigation and the other resulted in the WA Police charging two clients. The clients appeared once in court, but the matter was subsequently discontinued as WA Police deemed it not in the public interest to continue.

None of the Serco staff involved in the four alleged incidents of violence by detainees against Serco staff chose to lay charges.