

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 24 MAY 2011

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

#### **(BE11/0696) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management**

Senator Cash asked:

In relation to an article in *The Australian* newspaper dated 23 May that reported on two asylum seekers facing charges over attacks on guards on Christmas Island, what questions were asked of the spokesperson and what responses were given in relation to the incidents?

*Answer:*

The media team's duty officer on the weekend of 21-22 May, 2011 received enquiries from *The Australian* and Channel 7 regarding recent incidents on Christmas Island, including an altercation which led to two Serco officers being injured. The journalists were told:

- There were two separate minor incidents at Christmas Island Immigration Detention Centre on Friday (20 May).
- These two incidents were not connected to a separate altercation involving about 40 people earlier in the day.
- During these incidents, two detention service provider officers suffered injuries; one minor, which was treated onsite, and one slightly more serious, which was treated at Christmas Island Hospital.
- Police have been notified of both incidents.
- Such behaviour is not tolerated in the detention environment. The detainees have been reminded of the minister's announcement regarding behaviour expectations.
- The centre is calm.
- Any questions about criminal or other charges would need to be directed to the police.