

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27-28 May 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE13/0152) PROGRAM – 4.2: Onshore Detention Network

Senator Cash (L&CA 87) asked:

Senator Cash: How long has that negotiation been going on for?

Answer:

The department has existing arrangements in place with:

- the Department of Health Victoria for the provision of health services to clients in community and held detention (through a Memorandum of Understanding); and
- the Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development for the provision of education services to children in community and held detention (through exchanges of letters).

In late 2012, the Victorian Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) indicated its intention to consolidate these arrangements into an overarching Memorandum of Understanding, and agreed to draft an overall document for the Department's consideration.

While this document has not yet been provided, the Department is satisfied that the arrangements already in place under the existing MOUs and exchanges of letters are meeting the needs of clients in immigration detention in Victoria.