

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

**SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 1 November 2005**

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

### **(126) Output 1.3: Enforcement of Immigration Law**

Senator Kirk asked:

The Refugee Council of Australia, in its submission to the Inquiry into the Migration Act, mentions the issue of well publicised use of chemical restraint of detainees during removal. This claim is backed up by the Edmund Rice Centre, who say they have five recorded instances of people being chemically injected. While DIMIA have previously asserted that it is not government policy to use chemical restraint, can the Minister assure that no person being removed has ever been given a chemical restraint?

*Answer:*

The department's policy is that chemical sedation must not be used for the purpose of restraint. Neither DIMIA officers nor escorts are to request the administration of sedatives to a removee/deportee.

However, a medical practitioner may prescribe medication (including sedatives) to a detainee. The matter is one between the patient and medical practitioner.

The incidents raised by the Edmund Rice Centre were alleged to have occurred before the introduction of this policy.