

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 1 November 2005

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(139) Output 1.3: Enforcement of Immigration Law

Senator Nettle asked:

What safety equipment is provided to detainees working/assisting in detention centres – i.e. in the kitchen, or using cleaning products? Provide details.

Answer:

People undertaking meaningful activities within detention centres are provided with appropriate protective equipment under the relevant Occupational Health and Safety guidelines, as are those detention service provider staff undertaking similar duties. For example, people working in the kitchen are provided with gloves, hair nets, appropriate clothing (including footwear), and any equipment required to undertake the relevant activity.

A training period is also undertaken to instruct detainees on the correct use of cleaning products, kitchen protocols etc. in the various roles undertaken. A set of terms and conditions has been implemented by the detention service provider relating to each particular category of meaningful activity available at a centre. In the event that a person choosing to undertake meaningful activities does not abide by these terms and conditions, they are not permitted to participate in the program. Part of these terms and conditions includes instruction on how to appropriately use the safety equipment provided.