

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 1 November 2005

#### IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

#### (87) Output 1.3: Enforcement of Immigration Law

Senator Kirk asked:

Figures for mental illness of long-term detainees (by psychiatrists S. Mares and J. Juredini in a paper in the Aust NZ Journal of Public Health, 2004; 28:527-36) show that 87% have major depression, 56% have post traumatic stress disorder and 25% have frank psychosis. These figures are from 2004.

What are the figures currently? Does the Minister have reason to suppose current figures might be significantly different? If yes, why?

*Answer:*

The references given for the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health are for an article by Steele et. al. In the same edition there is an article by Mares and Juredini but the statistics mentioned were collected three years ago (in 2002). The statistics purport to examine the effects of detention on children. Children are no longer held in immigration detention centres.

The Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs does not collate epidemiological data on mental health diagnoses of long term detainees. However, detainees with a mental illness are reviewed and treated by psychiatrists. The following table gives the number of detainee consultations with psychiatrists in the year 2005 (to date).

Month (2005)	Baxter	Villawood	Maribyrnong	Perth
January 2005	17	0	0	0
February 2005	0	0	0	0
March 2005	0	0	8	0
April 2005	10	0	1	0
May 2005	10	1	6	0
June 2005	20	11	15	0
July 2005	28	10	14	1
August 2005	18	17	7	8
September 2005	20	20	2	0
October 2005	7	20	5	1