

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(311) Program 4.2: Onshore Detention Network

Senator Cash asked:

- (1) How many external trips “excursions” are made by clients from Australia’s metropolitan immigration detention facilities each year?
- (2) How are clients supervised on these trips?
- (3) What measures are put in place to prevent escapes during these trips?
- (4) What are the locations that have been used for these excursions (aquarium, bowling alleys)?
- (5) What risk assessments are made of these locations before undertaking such excursions?
- (6) How is security of the locations assessed and what risk assessment is undertaken on the clients before arranging such excursions?

Answer:

- (1) There were 4016 excursions made by clients from metropolitan immigration detention facilities in the period 1 January 2010 to 18 November 2010 and 2722 in 2009.
- (2) The clients are accompanied and supervised by Serco escorts and directed persons appointed under the Migration Act.
- (3) A security risk assessment is made for both the location of the excursion and of the clients. An appropriate number of escorts is assigned to those excursions commensurate with the risk ratings.
- (4) There are large numbers of different locations. They range from places of worship, shopping centres, parks, sporting facilities and family homes.
- (5) Every location has a risk assessment made before an excursion can be approved.
- (6) The risk assessments for locations identify line of sight, exit points, the locality of nearby public transport and other factors that may facilitate abscondments. Each client has their own security risk assessment. The client’s security risk assessments are regularly reviewed. A client’s current risk rating, as well as the site assessment, is considered before an excursion is approved.