

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(324) Program 4.2: Onshore Detention Network

Senator Cash asked:

- (1) Have any asylum seekers been charged in relation to the incident in Darwin?
- (2) What about the incident involving the Indonesian crews?
- (3) Has security at the centre been increased since these incidents? If so, in what way and at what cost?

Answer:

- (1) No asylum seekers have been charged in relation to the roadside protest at Northern Immigration Detention Centre on 1 September 2010.
- (2) Four Indonesian crew members have been charged in relation to the disturbance at Northern Immigration Detention Centre between 29-30 August 2010.
- (3) Yes. An independent security review and audit has been completed and the recommendations are now in the process of being implemented. Review recommendations include upgrades to perimeter security and internal security barriers. This includes installation, where not already done, of anti-climb mesh, and improved fixing of the chain link fence to the fence posts. The cost of implementation is still being worked through.

Serco Australia Pty Ltd, the Department's detention services provider, has increased the number of officers at the centre. The cost of the increase in staffing is included in the existing detention services provider fee.

Serco has also brought in a security expert to progress contingency and incident management planning with police and other emergency service agencies. Planning included desk topping various scenarios and developing appropriate responses. The cost of this is included in the existing detention services provider fee.