

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 17 OCTOBER 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE11/0312) Program 4.2: Onshore Detention Network

Senator Cash asked:

General questions onshore and offshore detention: Are IMAs required to declare goods, cash or other items when they are taken into detention? What happens to valuables brought by IMAs to Australia? Has any IMA brought more than \$10,000 in cash into the country? Has the Department ever had to report amounts of cash more than \$10,000? To whom? How often? What is the total amount that has been reported? Where is that cash held? Have any other declared items been reported? What are they?

Answer:

All Irregular Maritime Arrival (IMA) property is screened as part of the induction process at Immigration Detention Facilities (IDFs).

Serco staff must remove any excluded and controlled items from a client, including cash and other valuables, explain the reasons for removal, and hold those items securely as 'in trust property'. Any removed items must be recorded on the Excluded, Controlled & Illegal Items Log and the Property Log. All items that a client may legally possess must be returned to them immediately upon discharge from immigration detention.

Departmental officers do not handle client property at any time during IMA processing.

Australian Customs and Border Protection Service manage the property of IMAs upon apprehension and questions regarding declarations to be signed, amounts of cash declared and declared items should be addressed to that agency.