

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE:**

**SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 17 OCTOBER 2011**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

**(SE11/0325) Program 4.2: Onshore Detention Network**

Senator Cash asked:

In relation to the reports from the Daily Telegraph from October 2011 which reveal that at least 10 people went missing from detention, was a risk assessment done before the individuals in question were placed in community detention and if so what was the outcome of this risk assessment?

*Answer:*

In considering a placement in community-based arrangements, a range of case-specific factors are taken into account, including any potential risks. These factors and risks include the person's character; any identity and security issues; their age, family composition, health and wellbeing; any unique or exceptional circumstances; their cooperation with immigration processes; and the likelihood of compliance with any conditions (such as reporting regularly, staying at the specified address and not working). Further, the making, varying or revoking of a residence determination under the *Migration Act 1958* by the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship is subject to the public interest test.

After consideration of all the facts at the time the residence determination was made, the ten clients were assessed as suitable to be placed in community detention; however, they subsequently absconded from community detention and their residence determination was revoked as a result.

As a matter of procedure – and as with any client who escapes from immigration detention more generally – Departmental compliance staff and other agencies, including police, were advised at the time these clients absconded. Once located, the clients will be returned to an immigration detention facility.