

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 17 OCTOBER 2011

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

#### **(SE11/0383) Program 4.2: Onshore Detention Network**

Senator Hanson-Young asked:

Negative Assessments and decisions: Are there Red Cross Humanitarian Observers in all detention centres? What is their role? Have they made reports on conditions in immigration detention centres and, if so, are these publicly available?

*Answer:*

Arrangements exist between the Department and the Australian Red Cross to facilitate visits by Red Cross Humanitarian Observers to all immigration detention facilities. The role of the Red Cross Humanitarian Observer is to assess and monitor the general conditions of detention and treatment of people held at immigration detention facilities.

The Australian Red Cross reports and meets regularly with the Department to discuss issues and findings that arise from their visits. This information is provided to the Department in confidence and is used to help identify best practice and areas for improvement.