

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 15 October 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE12/0515) PROGRAM – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash (written) asked:

In the Department's "Report on the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Independent Review of the Incidents at the Christmas Island Immigration Detention Centre and Villawood Detention Centre September 2012" it states that "a written instruction has been released to Serco staff detailing security requirements for controlled items (knives etc.). Contingency plans have been updated to ensure potential weapons and controlled drugs are removed from the medical centre and accounted for during times of heightened tension." Have these instructions been passed on to service providers on Nauru? Are kitchenware and sharp objects including scissors readily accessible by asylum seekers on Nauru? Are metal knives available? What processes or procedures are in place to govern access to these items on Nauru? Are there procedures in place to remove or restrict access to sharp items in times of "heightened tension"? Who would trigger that process and under what circumstances?

Answer:

The department has provided the service providers on Nauru with guidance on security and safety management. This includes instruction that any equipment that would pose a security threat is stored securely and, if possible, removed from the site where a potential incident could compromise the security of the centre.

Metal knives, kitchenware and scissors are not readily accessible to clients on Nauru. Clients are provided with plastic cutlery.

The use of an inventory to monitor controlled items is a standard part of incident management procedures.

Transfield maintain overall responsibility for incident management at the Nauru Regional Processing Centre. The circumstances in which the removal of potential equipment threats occurs, is subject to Transfield's professional judgement.