

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 November 2013

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE13/0066) PROGRAMME – 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Singh (L&CA 121) asked:

Senator SINGH: What was the rationale behind recent changes in policy to visitor hours at some of the onshore detention facilities such as Villawood? Mr Bowles: I do not know. Do you Mr Cahill? Mr M Cahill: No. I will take that on notice. There are some changes made for operational reasons at various times, but they are usually only temporary.

Answer:

There has been no change to the policies and procedures of the detention services provider in relation to visiting hours at immigration detention facilities. Visits outside the standard hours will be considered and facilitated wherever possible. On occasion, visiting hours may be varied as a result of operational and security requirements.