

JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON AUSTRALIA'S IMMIGRATION DETENTION NETWORK

Q133

Question: Does DIAC know whether, for the clients under the ultimate duty of care of the Department of Immigration, the Serco staff, the MSS staff, anybody involved with them have been able to access the mental health awareness training?

Answer: The detention services provider, Serco, is required to ensure that their detention services staff attend mental health awareness training before commencing work at a detention facility, and then bi-annually thereafter at a refresher course.

Metropolitan Security Services (MSS) staff are not required to undertake mental health awareness training as their interaction with clients is limited and differs from other detention services staff, being predominantly perimeter security and patrolling.

The health services provider, International Health and Medical Services (IHMS), is required to ensure that their staff are appropriately trained in the risks and sensitivities relevant to the delivery of health care to people in detention.

IHMS provides its employees with induction training and then regular ongoing training at detention facilities on a wide range of health service delivery issues, including mental health awareness and management.

IHMS is also required to ensure that all health care providers, including community network providers, have the necessary and appropriate registrations, accreditations, qualifications, skills, training and experience to provide health care to people in immigration detention.

Training in the Mental Health Policies - 2010

Training and implementation of the Government's detention mental health policies, including mental health awareness, took place across the detention network February-November 2010.

The department coordinated training of staff from:

- DIAC;
- Serco;
- IHMS;
- the Australian Red Cross;
- Life Without Barriers (who provide support services to unaccompanied minors); and
- Member organisations of the Forum of Australian Services for Survivors of Torture and Trauma (FASSTT) (who provide torture and trauma counselling).

Mental Health Awareness and Policy Training - 2011

Updated mental health awareness and policy training has been developed and is now being delivered across the detention network. In response to participant feedback, the training incorporates additional mental health awareness material. It is being delivered to new detention services staff, and as well as those who attended the training in 2010.

The updated training has been delivered at Pontville Immigration Detention Centre, places of detention in Darwin and Leonora Alternate Place of Detention. The training is being delivered at Christmas Island (October-November 2011) and will be rolled-out across the remainder of the detention network over approximately six months.

**JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON AUSTRALIA'S
IMMIGRATION DETENTION NETWORK**

Q133

The department intends that the training will be regularly revised in consultation with IHMS and the department's Detention Health Advisory Group.