

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

Q238

Question: The second issue is in relation to the approach of the department to the provision of water to detainees on hunger strike. The committee is interested, in light of what Senator Hanson-Young has raised in earlier questions in how this came about and what has happened since it came about to make sure it does not come about again.

Answer: This situation came about while a client was carrying out a rooftop protest at the Northern Immigration Detention Centre. Staff were informed that they should encourage the client to come off the roof.

It appears that as part of the approach to encourage the client to leave the roof, the client was not offered water or food. The client was being monitored by IHMS on a regular basis to address any health concerns.

To clarify the department's expectations in the management of a rooftop protest, a direction has since been given to the Detention Service Provider, Serco, that if any client is on a roof he (or she) must be offered water.