

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 23 February 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE15/116) - Detainee Self Harm - Programme 2.1 Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance (Administered)

Senator Carr, Kim (L&CA) written:

- a. What is the incidence of detainee self-harm?
- b. What is the incidence of mental and physical illness amongst detainees?
- c. How many events involving the physical restraint detainees have occurred?
- d. What training is provided to staff to deal with incidences of mental and physical illness amongst detainees?
- e. What level of access to physical and mental health care services do detainees have

Answer:

- a. Data is available on the number of self-harm incidents in immigration detention facilities since 2011. This data does not take into account variations in population at the facilities over this period. The data is at Attachment A.
- b. The most recent data, as provided by International Health and Medical Services (IHMS), covers the period 1 October to 31 December 2014. The data indicates that during this period there were 607 instances of chronic health conditions amongst detainees in Immigration Detention Facilities, as categorised by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. These conditions were arthritis, asthma, cancer, cardiovascular, kidney disease, depression, diabetes and oral disease. Some detainees may have more than one chronic health condition.
- c. For the period 21 October 2014 to 23 February 2015 there were 608 recorded incidents involving physical restraint.
- d. Detention service provider staff are trained in mental health awareness and the operation of the portfolio's detention mental health policies. Any detainee displaying behaviour of possible mental health concern is referred to IHMS mental health clinicians for review. Detention service provider staff are also trained about the role of IHMS in providing health assessment and care and are trained to contact IHMS's Health Advice Service telephone and videoconferencing line for advice when IHMS clinicians are not on site.
- e. Health care services for detainees are comparable to those available to the Australian community under the public health system. Regular onsite primary and mental health clinics are provided, with referral to specialists and allied health care practitioners as clinically indicated. Emergency and acute health services are provided by local hospitals. IHMS's Health Advice Service is available to provide health advice to service providers when IHMS clinicians are not onsite at detention facilities.

Attachment A

Incidents of Self-Harm by Immigration Detention Facility July 2011 to 31 January 2015

Location	2011-2012	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15*
Adelaide ITA	2	3	0	3
Bladin APOD	N/A	N/A	34	15
Brisbane ITA	4	11	4	14
Construction Camp APOD	1	5	29	45
Curtin IDC	98	4	9	1
Darwin Airport Lodge	4	2	1	N/A
Inverbrackie APOD	5	0	5	14
Leonora APOD	5	2	3	N/A
Lilac Aqua	0	8	40	0
Maribyrnong IDC	35	17	25	27
Melbourne ITA	18	46	35	38
North West Point	206	16	179	101
Northern IDC	187	3	6	N/A
Perth IDC	11	2	18	9
Perth IRH	0	1	6	0
Phosphate Hill APOD	3	1	16	12
Pontville APOD	6	40	17	N/A
Port Augusta IRH	0	2	0	N/A
Scherger IDC	20	0	0	N/A
Sydney IRH	0	3	2	2
Villawood IDC	40	40	45	33
Wickham Point APOD	0	0	19	34
Wickham Point IDC	9	7	10	20
Yongah Hill IDC	0	8	50	17
TOTAL	654	221	553	385

* Up to 31 January 2015.