

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 February 2006**

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

### **(45) Output 1.3: Enforcement of Immigration Law**

Senator Crossin asked:

1. How many social workers are employed to visit or work with detainees on Christmas Island?
2. Where are these social workers based?
3. Are there plans to increase the number of social workers needed?
4. Was consideration given to employing local social workers who lived on the island? If not why? Will this change in the future?

*Answer:*

1. Two DIMA case managers with professional social work qualifications have visited Christmas Island to work with the West Papuan detainees. A further social worker attached to Department of Transport and Regional Services (DoTARS) was engaged in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding with the WA State Department of Community and Development to provide advice in relation to the unaccompanied minors.

The work of the three social workers has been supplemented by a locally employed registered nurse, a psychologist, and local hospital services.

The Department has also been working with non-government organisations to ensure that persons placed into the community under residence determination arrangements are properly supported. This may include the provision of social support through social workers.

2. The two DIMA case managers are based in Melbourne. The social worker attached to DoTARS is based on Christmas Island.

3. Not at this stage but support requirements for the detainees is being closely monitored and case managed.

4. Yes.