

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

### **ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 9 FEBRUARY 2010**

#### **IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO**

#### **(45) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management**

Senator Hanson-Young (L&C 96-97) asked:

Provide details of the frequency of activities conducted outside the Christmas Island detention centre. How are the excursions being managed now that there are more people on the Island?

*Answer:*

Each Sunday, between 15 and 20 clients from Construction Camp and Phosphate Hill join with 30 clients from the Christmas Island (CI) IDC in going to the Christmas island Catholic Church. Additionally, seven clients from CI IDC attend a weekly CI Christian Fellowship meeting. Each Friday, up to 30 clients attend the CI Mosque.

In addition to these regular religious activities, a new Monthly Activities Program is being implemented with the inclusion of weekly excursions for clients. The two-hour excursions involve two escorted groups of 30 clients (one in the morning and one after lunch) each Saturday, in two buses, visiting local sites such as South Point, Margaret Knoll and Territory Park. Clients are selected for the escorted excursion on the basis of the length of time in detention – that is, the longer term clients are given priority.

IDC clients can also go on excursions outside the centre if they are accompanied by a Designated Person (a person authorised by the Secretary of the Department, or the Secretary's delegate). Between 6 September 2009 and 7 February 2010, 59 clients accommodated in the IDC have been on excursions outside the centre in the company of designated persons.