

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 9 FEBRUARY 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(57) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Humphries (L&C 111-112) asked:

Is a dance teacher being provided specifically for teaching dance in the centre? Is this dance teacher, as part of the Serco contract, flown to Christmas Island for the purpose of teaching dance, or is it a local person who has been recruited for that purpose? What sort of dancing does the teacher teach?

Answer:

The Detention Services Provider (DSP) has not provided a teacher specifically for teaching dance in the immigration detention centre.

Under the contract, the DSP is responsible for ensuring that people accommodated at the Christmas Island IDC have access to a broad range of activities and excursions whilst they are in immigration detention. The actual activities or excursions provided to detainees are at the discretion of the DSP, who engages staff or volunteers to conduct these activities. Volunteers are flown to Christmas Island from the mainland aboard aircraft chartered by the Department.

Volunteers from the Australian League of Immigration Volunteers (ALIV) provide a range of services and support in detention settings both on the mainland and Christmas Island, such as sport (soccer, cricket, volleyball), fitness classes and English language classes. ALIV have provided support services in immigration detention centres for a number of years. Dance classes are also offered from time-to-time, although the type and frequency of the classes offered is dependent on the skills and willingness of volunteers.