

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 9 FEBRUARY 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(91) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Humphries asked:

- (1) Who determines the meal plan for the Christmas Island IDC?
- (2) Where does the food come from and how is it brought to the Island?
- (3) Is food sourced from the same shipping company as for the Christmas Island residents?

Answer:

- (1) The meal plan is determined by the Serco (the Detention Service Provider) Chef Manager. The meals reflect contract specifications and are approved by a dietician. Clients have the opportunity to provide input to the meal plan via the weekly Client Consultative Committee Meetings.
- (2) Food is sourced from:
 - a. wholesalers on the mainland;
 - b. one fresh produce merchant on the island;
 - c. one baker on the island, and;
 - d. a number of local wholesalers and retailers who source foodstuffs from the mainland and Malaysia.
- (3) Zentner shipping is the only sea freight company that operates a regular service to Christmas Island from Perth. It is therefore the main company used by both the Department to ship in food for clients, and by Christmas Island traders for supply to residents (including DIAC staff working on the island). The bulk of food items for both the Department's clients and the residents on Christmas Island are shipped in by this company.

Perishable items are air freighted to Christmas Island on regular charters organised by the Department. This is outside the arrangement with traders on Christmas Island and reduces any impact on the Christmas Island community.