

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 21 FEBRUARY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(196) Program 4.2: Onshore Detention Network

Senator Cash asked:

Were any weapons searches conducted after each of these incidents? Were any found? What were they? What has happened to those people who were found with weapons?

Answer:

Weapon searches were not conducted after each and every incident. However, during routine searches some contraband items were found which could be used as weapons. It is not possible to disaggregate the types of contraband items for every particular incident. Serco's operational response is to remove those items from the clients and hand them over to the relevant State/Territory police.

Management of the persons who possessed the weapons is dealt with on a case by case basis. The State/Territory police may choose to charge clients if they consider it appropriate. On other occasions Serco counsels clients regarding appropriate behaviour while in immigration detention.