

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

### **ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 21 FEBRUARY 2011**

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

#### **(215) Program 4.2: Onshore Detention Network**

Senator Cash asked:

Have there been any hunger strikes at Curtin Detention Centre during the past 12 months at this detention Facility and if so can you provide details of the various incidents. 2) 163. If so, what was that reason for each of these hunger strikes.

*Answer:*

In the past 12 months, there have been 13 incidents reported where a single client or a group of clients have participated in a voluntary starvation protest at the Curtin Immigration Detention Centre.

An act of voluntary starvation is defined in the Serco contract as a client missing three consecutive meals. However, a client is not deemed to be on a voluntary starvation protest by Serco and the Department unless the client states that they are protesting or a medical assessment leads to this conclusion. Any client who has missed three consecutive meals is closely monitored by Serco and International Health and Medical Services.

The reason why a client decides to participate in a voluntary starvation protest is personal and varies on a case by case basis.

Please note, these figures are accurate as at 21 February 2011.