

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 11 February 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE13/0411) PROGRAM – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash (Written) asked:

The Hawke Williams report notes that “Serco has established an Emergency Response Team... that has been training with the AFP to enhance its incident management capabilities” (pg. 4). When was the Emergency Response Team established? How many training exercises have been conducted with the AFP over what time period? How does the team operate i.e. are they based in Canberra or are specialised staff located in each IDC?

Answer:

Serco acquired an Emergency Response Team (ERT) capability in early June 2011.

On the Australian mainland, ERT members conduct training with State or Territory Law Enforcement Officers, as these are more likely to attend Immigration Detention Facilities. On Christmas Island, two programs to train ERT members for interoperability with the AFP were run in November 2011, and joint training of ERT and the Australian Federal Police staff has been conducted monthly since August 2012.

ERT members are based in key regions, principally Christmas Island and Darwin. Other locations with a current ERT capability include Curtin Immigration Detention Centre (IDC), Villawood IDC and Perth IDC. ERT capabilities are designed to facilitate deployment to other locations at short notice in response to operational needs.