

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES - 25 FEBRUARY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE14/370) PROGRAMME – 4.2: Onshore Detention Network

Senator Hanson-Young (Written) asked:

Are websites blocked in Immigration Detention Centres?

What content is blocked?

Who determines the content limits?

Are Australian legal organisation and representative's websites blocked?

Answer:

Are websites blocked in Immigration Detention Centres? What content is blocked?

Internet content is blocked in immigration detention centres in accordance with the list of prohibited internet content and features specified in the onshore detention service provider contract. Appropriate filtering software limits access by detainees to internet sites including prohibited foreign language sites, those promoting illegal acts, containing pornographic content or offering personal software, file Transfer Protocols, software or data.

Persons in immigration detention, and people seeking to assist people in immigration detention to use internet or computer services, must sign the Computer and Internet Conditions of Use Agreement before they can access any internet services.

Who determines the content limits?

The Department of Immigration and Border Protection and the onshore detention service provider agreed on the internet content limits as part of contractual arrangements. The service provider is responsible for the administration of internet usage arrangements under the contract. If a detainee has a site blocked during their internet usage that they feel should be accessible, they can discuss access with the Detention Services Provider to seek clarification or resolution.

Are Australian legal organisation and representative's websites blocked?

No.