

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27-28 MAY 2009

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(72) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Hanson -Young asked:

- (1) How many asylum seekers are being held in the Phosphate Hill IDC as a form of community detention? Are there any children?
- (2) How long have they been held for?
- (3) For those held in Phosphate Hill are there any restrictions such as curfews?
- (4) Do those in Phosphate Hill have full access to cooking facilities as someone who is living in the community?
- (5) Are the residents of Christmas Island receiving community bulletins each time clients are moved into community detention?
- (6) As the island is predominantly made up of Chinese and Malay people are community bulletins being translated into Chinese and Malay the same way in which the local newspaper translates any community notices?

Answer:

- (1) As at 15 May 2009, there were five adult asylum seekers in community detention in the facility known as Phosphate Hill, and no children.
- (2) The five have been detained on Christmas Island since 29 November 2008 and have been in Community Detention arrangements at Phosphate Hill since 25 March 2009.
- (3) The five have a condition attached to their community detention placement that they remain within 500 metres of their accommodation between 7pm and 6am each day.
- (4) The group has access to limited cooking facilities, such as a rice cooker, toaster and portable cooker. The group is provided with two meals each day and make their own breakfast.
- (5) No. DIAC provides a fortnightly community bulletin regarding its activities on Christmas Island, which includes updates on the number of people currently in the CI IDC, alternative detention and community detention arrangements. The numbers of those who have been resettled in Australia and those who have voluntarily returned home are also provided. The Department also meets regularly with key stakeholders on Christmas Island and is currently in discussions with the Shire in regard to supporting a new Community Liaison Officer.
- (6) Yes.