

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 24 MAY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE11/0458) Program 4.2: Onshore Detention Network

Senator Cash asked:

In relation to external trips 'excursions' made by clients from Australia's metropolitan immigration detention facilities each year, how are clients supervised on these trips?

Answer:

Serco must supervise a client in accordance with an operational order for each excursion.

Supervision can range from one Serco officer for a small number of low risk clients to a number of officers for one high risk client.

Each operational order is unique and takes into account a client's circumstances very carefully. In making a decision on what supervision arrangements would be appropriate for an excursion, Serco must:

- undertake a risk assessment;
- consider current security and flight risk assessments;
- consider advice of medical professionals who may be treating the client in immigration detention;
- determine the number and gender of drivers and escorts required for each escort task;
- develop an operation plan considering the needs and well-being of the people in immigration detention, integration with other service providers, and contingency situations and related risks;
- take reasonable measures to ensure that clients in immigration detention are not placed in situations that threaten their personal safety or security; and
- monitor and manage at all times the behaviour of clients in immigration detention to ensure their well-being and safety is maintained.