

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 24 MAY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE11/0539) Program 4.2: Onshore Detention Network

Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash (L&CA 94) asked:

In relation to the Herald Sun article dated 16 May 2011, the article claims:

"Inmates at the Broadmeadows facility have boasted about escaping at night to get McDonald's".

Is the department aware of such claims?

Answer:

The Department is aware of the article and consequently the claims made in the article. The Department wrote to the Editor indicating concern regarding the balance of the article's reporting of the very complex issue of establishing the age of a person in immigration detention.

The Detention Services Provider investigates all alarms triggered on the fences at the Melbourne Immigration Transit Accommodation (MITA). If it is found to have been triggered by a client the incident is recorded as either an attempted escape or an escape.

No clients who have escaped from the MITA have been located at the nearby McDonald's.