

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21-22 MAY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE12/0354) Program 4.1: Visa Compliance and Status Resolution

Senator Cash asked:

I refer to the Commonwealth Ombudsman report entitled “Detention arrangements – the transfer of 22 detainees from Villawood Immigration Detention Centre to the Metropolitan Remand and Reception Centre Silverwater” dated April 2012 and I ask: Can you update the Committee on the review of existing policy settings surrounding transfer of immigration clients between detention facilities and correction facilities, referred to in the DIAC response to Recommendation 4?

Answer:

The review identified risks associated with the transfer of clients in immigration detention from facility to facility, including correctional facilities. The mitigation strategies developed to address identified risks have been incorporated into the draft updated PAM guidelines.

The draft updated PAM includes time frames for each stage of the transfer process including notification, record keeping and procedures during rapid/emergency transfers, as well as clarifying 'duty of care' responsibilities towards detainees transferred to correctional facilities.