

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 21-22 MAY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE12/0385) Program 4.2: Onshore Detention Network

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: I understand the operational demands at the time, but why were the administrative procedures applying to the transfers not just deferred to a time where an acceptable level of order had been restored to the facility?

Answer:

In the department’s response to the Commonwealth Ombudsman’s report, it was acknowledged that there had been some administrative process shortcomings in the transfer of the clients from Villawood IDC to Silverwater Metropolitan Remand and Reception Centre following the April 2011 disturbances.

As noted in the response, a review of current departmental transfer policies and procedures has been undertaken which also considered the Ombudsman’s findings and recommendations relating to the 2011 Silverwater transfers. As a result, the PAM3 instruction has been updated to reflect current case management practices and is in the process of being finalised.