

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21-22 MAY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE12/0391) Program 4.2: Commonwealth Ombudsman report - transfer of detainees - detention arrangements

Senator Cash (L&CA written) 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: 12. In relation to the DIAC response to Recommendation 2, you mention “the Department has developed a draft check list and new guidelines for completing the transfer form” – has that checklist been finalised as yet? If not, when do you expect it to be completed and implemented? Please provide a copy of the final checklist. Will the completed checklist be recorded on the detainees file, as per the Ombudsman’s recommendation?

Answer.

A checklist for detainee transfers from an immigration detention facility to a correctional facility is currently being developed and is expected to be available by September 2012. The checklist will be attached to a Detention Operations Procedure (the new guidelines referred to) which is being developed for concurrent release.

In accordance with the Ombudsman’s recommendations, a key component of the checklist will be a requirement to reflect clearly and appropriately record the rationale for transferring a detainee to a correctional facility.