

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 21-22 MAY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE12/0394) Program 4.2: Onshore Detention Network

Senator Hanson-Young asked:

What has the Department undertaken to improve consistent visitors services across the IDC network? What auditing does the Department do to ensure that visiting practices are fair and consistent across IDCs?

Answer:

The department is undertaking an internal quality assurance review of visits procedures at immigration detention facilities in consultation with the detention services provider. The review will examine the operation of existing procedures across the immigration detention network, and make recommendations in any areas where procedures or practices could be strengthened to ensure consistent and efficient application of visits policy.

The Detention Visits area within the Department of Immigration and Citizenship monitors all high level and official visits to immigration detention facilities. This area of the department is located in National Office and works closely with those officers in the network to communicate and report on all visits taking place across the facilities.

There are standardised procedures in place should a person, group or official delegation wish to visit an immigration detention facility. Before going on deployment departmental staff are provided with training about how to manage visits to immigration detention facilities and how to access the procedures supporting this process. All requests for visits are managed consistently across the network.