

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 21-22 MAY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE12/0478) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Hanson-Young asked:

Are reports correct that on Monday 21 May there were room searches conducted by Serco at Villawood Immigration Residential Housing? What were the reasons for the room search? How often have unannounced room searches occurred in the past two years? Are reports correct that two individuals were strip searched?

Answer:

There was an incident at the IRH on Tuesday 22 May 2012 not 21 May 2012.

After broken equipment was found in the recreation area, it was identified that other equipment that could be used as a weapon was missing. A review of the video footage identified the detainees involved and a targeted room search of their rooms was instigated in an attempt to retrieve the missing equipment.

There have been three room searches including the incident above at the Sydney Immigration Residential Housing between 21 May 2010 and 22 May 2012.

There was no strip search at the IRH following the incident of 22 May 2012.