

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARTING: 27-28 May 2013**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

**(BE13/0156) PROGRAM – 4.2: Onshore Detention Network**

Senator Abetz (L&CA 94) asked:

Senator ABETZ: There was a story in the Hobart Mercury of 9 April 2013 which was said:

A plan to have volunteers work with young detainees at the Pontville Detention Centre has been scrapped after intervention by the Federal Government. The Department has forced the Tasmanian Polytechnic to stop advertising for classroom volunteers ...

What happened there?

Mr Douglas: I would need to check further. I think the issue may well be whether those volunteers could meet the tests associated with working with minors, but I would like to take that on notice and get back to you.

*Answer:*

The Department did not “force the Tasmanian Polytechnic to stop advertising for classroom volunteers”.

As part of its normal program delivery, the Tasmanian Polytechnic trains volunteers to participate in its programs in order to assist participants develop English language skills.

The Tasmanian Polytechnic advertised for volunteers for the Adult Migrant Education Program that is delivered at their Hobart campus. The Tasmanian Polytechnic did not advertise for classroom volunteers for the program being delivered to the young people accommodated at Pontville Alternative Place of Detention.