

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

### **BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 28 May 2013**

#### **IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO**

#### **(BE13/0170) PROGRAM – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management**

Senator Cash (L&CA 99) asked:

Mr Cahill: The detention service provider has proactive measures in place appropriate to the legal limitations that they have for screening visitors and when they are doing the detainee monitoring. The facilities are routinely searched to manage the risk of prohibited items being brought into the immigration detention centres.

Senator CASH: What are the types of contraband that have been detected inside detention centres?

Mr Cahill: I do not have the specifics with me at the moment. I know that at times we have found suspicious substances, which we are obviously not experts in. We refer any suspicious substance to the AFP.

Senator CASH: Have any charges or other penalties been applied to those found possessing or ingesting such contraband?

Mr Cahill: I will have to take that on notice.

*Answer:*

Items that are illegal in the Australian community, such as illicit drugs, are not permitted within an Immigration Detention Facility (IDF). Alcohol is also prohibited. Recent examples of the types of contraband that have been detected inside detention centres include un-labelled medication/tablets, suspicious substances and drug paraphernalia.

Any incidents involving alleged criminal activity occurring in IDFs, including the location of illicit drugs, are referred to appropriate law enforcement agencies.

As at 28 May 2013, no individual in immigration detention has been subject to criminal charges relating to illicit substances found within an IDF.