

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 1 November 2005**

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

**(92) Output 1.3: Enforcement of Immigration Law**

Senator Kirk asked:

Do detainees have access to counselling services?

*Answer:*

Yes.

Psychologists and counsellors are employed at all immigration detention facilities. Detainees can make an appointment for general counselling around any aspect of their current situation, at any time, without prior referral. If there is concern that a detainee needs psychiatric assistance, a referral is made by the General Practitioner to a Psychiatrist. A Psychiatrist consults on site at Baxter Immigration Detention Facility every two weeks, or more frequently if required.