

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 1 November 2005

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(93) Output 1.3: Enforcement of Immigration Law

Senator Kirk asked:

What is the process by which detainees see psychiatrists and psychologists? e.g. can those who want an appointment have one? Who makes the assessment as to whether detainees should see a psychiatrist?

Answer:

A detainee can request an appointment with the psychologist or psychiatrist at any time. It would however, be usual to be assessed by the health or psychological staff prior to a psychiatrist appointment.

Detention staff may also inform the health team if they have any concerns about a detainee and that individual will be reviewed.

In training for detention centre staff, it is emphasised that a detainee should be assisted in a sensitive manner to obtain mental health treatment expeditiously.