

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(270) Program 4.2: Onshore Detention Network

Senator Cash asked:

(1) In May 2010 the media reported that six detainees absconded from the Villawood detention facility. Have any of these absconders been apprehended and returned to custody?

(2) What actions (in terms of fines or other sanctions) have been taken by the Government against the operator of the detention facility in relation to these escapes?

Answer:

(1) No.

(2) Under the contract in place with the detention service provider, Serco, the Department can apply fines against Serco if there are substantiated non-compliant service delivery failures. The Department has fined Serco in relation to these escapes.