

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 17 OCTOBER 2011

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

#### **(SE11/0099) Program: Internal Product**

Senator Cash asked:

General questions onshore and offshore detention: In relation to media inside detention centres, has any formal action been taken to implement that policy? When was it commenced and what is the current status of the plan? When will the plan be implemented? Have media organisations directly lobbied the Minister about it?

*Answer:*

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship has acknowledged for some time the strong interest of media in gaining access to the detention environment for reporting purposes and that its previous detention media access policy was dated, given the size and scope of the current network.

This updated policy extends the access which is currently available in a manner which meets the media's needs, while ensuring the Department protects the privacy of its detainee clients, which it is required to do under law.

The media access policy was officially put on the Department's website on 21 October 2011. Since then, the department has been in touch with numerous media outlets about a pool visit to the Maribyrnong Immigration Detention Centre on December 6 and Inverbrackie Alternative Place of Detention on December 14.

The Department escorted two media crews through Villawood Immigration Detention Centre on 19 October 2011. These crews abided by the terms of the deed of agreement.