

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

### **SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 November 2013**

#### **IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO**

#### **(SE13/0054) PROGRAMME – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management**

Senator Carr (L&CA 108-109) asked:

Senator KIM CARR: With regard to reports of staff on Christmas Island being dismissed by Serco due to fraternising with detainees, are you able to advise the committee about those reports? Mr Bowles: Yes. I cannot give all the details but, in a broad sense, Serco responded to allegations around inappropriate behaviour on a range of issues. In my view they responded appropriately and the particular staff member was dismissed. Senator KIM CARR: One? Mr Bowles: I think it was only one, in the end. I can take that on notice and clarify. I do not have the report with me. I spoke to the CEO—I think that is what he is called: or is it managing director?—on the weekend about the issue. He immediately acted and the particular individual that I was talking about was dismissed.

*Answer:*

An investigation of an alleged incident on Christmas Island concluded that a Serco officer had failed to comply with Serco's policy.

The incident was referred to the Australian Federal Police (AFP) on 14 October 2013. The AFP agreed with the findings of the investigation and concluded that no criminal offence had been committed as a result of the alleged incident.

As a result of the findings of the initial investigation, the Serco officer was dismissed on 22 October 2013 for misconduct as a result of a breach of Serco's Code of Conduct.