

CHRISTMAS ISLAND — DETENTION CENTRE STAFF

4418. Hon Alison Xamon to the Minister for Commerce

I refer to the Department of Immigration and Citizenship Detention Centre staff exposed to increasing levels of self-harm and suicide among refugee detainees, and I ask —

- (1) Has Worksafe undertaken any investigations in relation to concerns about the mental health of these staff?
- (2) If yes to (1), what has been the outcome of these investigations?
- (3) If no to (1), why not?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

- (1) No
- (2) Not applicable
- (3) The Department of Immigration and Citizenship is an agency of the Commonwealth Government and its employees are not within the jurisdiction of Western Australia's Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984. Therefore WorkSafe does not have authority to investigate matters involving that Department's staff.