

IMMIGRATION DETENTION CENTRES — STATELESS DETAINEES — RELEASE

**857. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Premier:**

I refer to the release of 92 unlawful non-citizens over the weekend, with 32 from the Yongah Hill Immigration Detention Centre and Perth Immigration Detention Centre, some of whom have been described as the worst of the criminals in the cohort.

- (1) When did the Premier receive notification from the commonwealth government regarding the release of these individuals?
- (2) Where are these individuals, some with a history of violence and sexual assault, now being housed?
- (3) How much will the management and monitoring of these individuals to keep our communities safe cost the taxpayers of Western Australia?

**Mr R.H. COOK replied:**

This is obviously an issue that is not of the state's doing. It is an issue that came to pass because of a decision by the High Court on 8 November to release the stateless detainees from immigration detention.

- (1)–(3) On 9 November, the Western Australia Police Force attended a briefing from the Australian Border Force, which is the primary federal agency in charge of this particular action. On 11 November, 27 detainees were released from WA immigration centres—that is, either from the Yongah Hill or Perth immigration centres. Then on 12 November, a further five detainees were released from WA immigration centres. So far, 32 detainees have been released from WA facilities since the High Court ruling.

Although the Australian Border Force is the lead agency for the coordination of the activity associated with the release of the detainees, it is working with WA police to understand what, if any, public safety issues remain. Every detainee released into WA has been assessed by police.

As I understand it, a majority of them are heading to the eastern states, but those who are staying are being closely monitored by police. Known sex offenders have had reporting conditions imposed on them. My understanding is that seven have been identified as reportable offenders under the Community Protection (Offender Reporting) Act 2004. Through liaison with ABF, WA police met with these seven people and obtained required information from them. The majority of them have been given further directions to meet with police in the near future to be interviewed and have allowed their circumstances to be assessed in line with community protection concerns.

The visa arrangements for these particular detainees are still being determined by the commonwealth. Obviously, they will be allowed to act in accordance with these restrictions. This is no different from any other person being released from custody having served a term in jail for a crime they committed. In these instances, once they committed their crimes, they were then attempted to be deported by the immigration centres. Even though the High Court has made this decision, and I accept that it is a frustrating decision, this is the work that police would undertake in the normal course of events. Monitoring of those seven former detainees will obviously just be part of the day-to-day work of police.