

**JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON AUSTRALIA'S
IMMIGRATION DETENTION NETWORK**

Q58

Question: How many mental health professionals are engaged permanently or temporarily at detention facilities on Christmas Island? Please provide details of the services that they provide.

Answer: As at 30 August 2011, mental health services are delivered on Christmas Island by the following staff:

| Position | No. | Role Description | Employment Status | Employer |
|---------------------------|-----|--|--|----------|
| Mental Health Team Leader | 4 | A Mental Health Team Leader is a trained mental health professional who assumes the role of managing a professional Mental Health Team. This team may include Mental Health Registered Nurses, trained Counsellors and Psychologists. The Mental Health Team Leader is also responsible for ensuring the consistent delivery of high quality and timely mental health services, liaising with relevant stakeholders and in the preparation of relevant reports and associated documents. | Full-time | IHMS |
| Mental Health Nurse | 12 | Provides care to people with mental illness or mental distress such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, psychosis, depression or dementia. Nurses in this area have undertaken comprehensive additional specialist training in psychological therapies, building a therapeutic relationship, dealing with challenging behaviour and the administration of psychiatric medication. | Full-time | IHMS |
| Clinical Psychologist | 4 | Specialises in diagnosing and treating diseases of the brain, emotional disturbance, and behaviour problems. Psychologists can only use 'talk' therapy as treatment - they have no prescribing rights. If medication is deemed appropriate, the client must see a psychiatrist or medical doctor. | Full-time | IHMS |
| Psychiatrist | 1 | Specialises in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of all forms of mental illness and can prescribe medication. | Visits Christmas Island up to 8 days per month | IHMS |

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| Torture and Trauma Counsellor | 3 | Works with people who have experienced torture and/or trauma, to help them develop ways to cope with their experiences and better manage their responses to stressful situations. Counselling provides people with reassurance, guidance, explanation, encouragement and support through careful listening to their practical and emotional needs. | Full-time | Indian Ocean Territories Health Service (immigration detainee services funded by DIAC) |
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