

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

Q258

Question:

When did the department first recommend to the minister that people should be transferred off Christmas Island to the mainland and that facilities should be established on the mainland to support people transferred? Do you recall whether that advice was given about the need to get people off Christmas Island was in January or February?

Answer:

The department was engaged in contingency planning activities to manage a surge in irregular maritime arrivals from early 2009. Part of this planning involved briefing the Government on mainland accommodation options which may be suitable should the number of arrivals exceed capacity at existing Christmas Island detention facilities. Advice about people being transferred off Christmas Island was given to the then Minister in January 2010.