

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

Q285

Question: With all of that occurring, when did the department say to the AFP, 'We need to get police back on the island'?

Answer: All agencies involved in irregular maritime arrival operations on Christmas Island were aware of the complexities and potential risks associated with overcrowding at the facilities on the island. Such information was shared at regular inter-agency briefings and other similar high level meetings both on Christmas Island and in Canberra. Officials from the department and the AFP were involved in those discussions but any decision to increase or decrease the AFP presence on Christmas Island was, and remains, a matter for that agency.