

JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON AUSTRALIA'S IMMIGRATION DETENTION NETWORK

Q178

Question: Could you please provide as to the 89 what the other branches of transfers were to Villawood and the stated purpose for making those transfers.

Answer: All transfer decisions are made on a case-by-case basis.

The department regularly transfers IMAs from Christmas Island to other detention facilities, including Villawood Immigration Detention Centre (VIDC). Groups or individuals may be moved for a range of reasons including:

- Health and wellbeing;
- Family structure;
- Availability of community support;
- Immigration pathway;
- Cultural and religious sensitivities;
- Availability of detention accommodation; and
- Security risk assessment.

Each detention facility is designed to accommodate different groups. Each client will be transferred to a detention facility that is appropriate to their needs.

The department moves clients between facilities in accordance with their cultural background, location of family units, client vulnerabilities, pathways, and where suitable accommodation is available.

The practice of accommodating vulnerable groups such as families and unaccompanied minors in less restrictive forms of detention is a long-standing practice implemented under successive governments.

VIDC comprises six compounds, with compounds accommodating specific groups, as follows:

- Banksia compound: females;
- Blaxland compound: single adult males;
- Fowler compound: single adult males;
- Hughes compound: adult males and females in family groups;
- Murray compound: various clients; and
- Sydney Immigration Residential Housing (SIRH): family groups.

The department transferred 290 clients from Christmas Island to VIDC on 22 separate charter flights between 1 March 2010 and 26 October 2011.

This included:

- 15 single adult males transferred to Blaxland IDC;
- 231 single adult males transferred to Fowler IDC;
- 1 single adult male transferred temporarily to Hughes IDC (this client was a witness

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in a Sydney court); and

- 43 clients in 12 family groups transferred to SIRH.