

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

Q164

Question: I would like to know what that waiting list is and what the bottleneck is created by.

Answer: As of 24 October 2011, 73 clients were on the waiting list to receive an initial session of torture and trauma counselling at Melaleuca Refugee Centre. The current waiting time for the initial session is six to eight weeks.

Melaleuca Refugee Centre triages clients and those in greatest need of torture and trauma counselling are given higher priority.

The current waiting times reflect the demand for torture and trauma counselling in the Northern Territory immigration detention network.

The department will continue to monitor the waiting times for torture and trauma counselling in the Northern Territory.

The department is currently in discussions with the detention health services provider, IHMS, and the counselling provider about the current waiting times.