



## Moving forward on immigration detention reforms: DIAC to give evidence

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship will appear before the Migration Committee on Wednesday (24 September) to outline the implementation of the Government's reforms to immigration detention. The public hearing is part of the Committee's current inquiry into immigration detention in Australia.

Earlier this year, following on from the closure of Nauru and the abolition of Temporary Protection Visas, the Minister for Immigration announced a new 'risk-based' approach to immigration clients.

Under the reforms, people will not be detained after health, security and identity checks have been completed, unless they present a risk to the community.

Committee Chair Michael Danby welcomed the reforms and the intention to reduce both the number of people in detention and the duration of their stay.

He said, however, that many issues remained with the implementation of the general principles.

"We are looking forward to hearing from the Department about how, for example, risk to the community will be assessed, and how that risk will be managed," he said.

"This is about finding a realistic balance between minimising risk to the community and to the immigration system, and providing humane alternatives to immigration detention whilst people await the resolution of their status."

The Department's submission to the inquiry states that it is currently exploring risk management mechanisms, such as reporting and monitoring requirements, that might accompany the expansion of community-based detention options.

As part of this inquiry the Committee will be releasing its first report before the end of the year, which will comment on the criteria that should be applied in determining how long a person should be held in immigration detention.

### Details of the hearing:

Date: Wednesday, 24 September 2008  
Time: 9.30 – 11.30am  
Location: Committee Room 2S1, Parliament House, Canberra

Members of the public are welcome to attend the hearing, which will also be webcast on the APH website at <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>.

**For media comment**, please contact the Committee Chair, Michael Danby MP, on (02) 6277 4520.

**For background information** please visit the inquiry website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/mig/reports.htm> or contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4560 or [jscm@aph.gov.au](mailto:jscm@aph.gov.au).