

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 23 May 2017**

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

**(BE17/108) - Capacity of Immigration Detention Network - Programme 1.4: IMA Onshore Management**

Senator McKim, Nick (L&CA 60 & 61) asked:

Senator McKIM: I think this next question will be one for the commissioner, and I am talking about onshore detention here as opposed offshore. What is your current percentage of capacity—I am not quite sure what terminology you use—that your centres are running at as a whole, including Christmas Island? And the corollary is: how many vacancies do you currently have?

Mr Quaedvlieg: I might take the comprehensive answer on notice. We currently have about 1,400 persons in our onshore detention network. We are not running at full capacity; in fact, we are on a downward trajectory.

Senator McKIM: What would full capacity be onshore?

Mr Quaedvlieg: The answer to that is a bit more complex. It depends on how long those persons are going to be in the detention centres. If they are in there for any length of time, then obviously we would want to ensure appropriate amenity. If we have to, on a short-term basis surge, things like double bunking—which we discussed yesterday—is possible. I will take some advice on the maximum capacity, but I should make the point that, even at maximum capacity, we are not going to be able to detain in held detention the entirety of the legacy case load. I think that is where you are going with your questioning.

Senator McKIM: That is part of it. You have said you will take that on notice.

Mr Quaedvlieg: I will, yes.

Senator McKIM: When you provide that, could you provide the answer in terms of your total capacity under normal operating conditions and then also, as you say— Mr Quaedvlieg: Under extraordinary ones.

Senator McKIM: if you have a surge. I do not know whether there are a few steps from your normal operating capacity up until you are absolute, stretched maximum.

Mr Quaedvlieg: Yes. I will give you the various layers, and the reason I say that is that we have facilities that are in dormancy, if you like, that could be regenerated if we needed to on a requirement. I should add this caveat, though: just because a person is on a removal pathway out of the country, that does not necessarily mean they need to be in held detention.

*Answer:*

Operational Capacity	2,036
Contingency Capacity	3,216