

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 24 FEBRUARY 2009

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(44) Output 1.5: Detention

Senator Abetz asked:

- 1) Has the Government decided to continue its contract with the company known as G4S in the running of its detention centres?
- 2) Is the Government continuing a tendering process for new private managers for Australian Detention centres?
- 3) Is the tendering of Detention Centres for private management consistent with the current government's election policies from the 2007 election?

Answer:

- 1) The current contract with G4S in relation to the management of immigration detention centres is currently due to expire on 31 January 2010. Tender processes are ongoing for the provision of detention services beyond the expiry of the current contract (see response to question 2 below).
- 2) The tender processes for detention and health services to people in detention were initiated in March 2006 by the former government and were well advanced when the Rudd Government came to office. The Department has commenced three separate tender processes:
 - Detention Services for Immigration Detention Centres (IDCs);
 - Detention Services for Immigration Residential Housing (IRH) / Immigration Transit Accommodation (ITA); and
 - Health Services to People in Detention.

An announcement was made in January 2009 relating to the Health Services Tender and the Department is transitioning to the new contract with International Health and Medical Services Pty Limited.

The Department announced in March 2009 that Serco Australia Pty Ltd has been selected as the preferred tenderer for the new five-year contract for the provision of a range of immigration detention services at immigration detention centres around Australia. Negotiations have commenced with the intention of signing the contract by 30 June 2009.

A separate five-year contract will be entered into for the delivery of detention services for immigration residential housing and immigration transit accommodation. The Department announced in May 2009 that G4S Australia Pty Ltd had been selected as

preferred tenderer for that contract. The Department will now enter into negotiations with G4S Australia, with the intention of signing the contract as soon as possible.

3) The Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Senator Chris Evans on 29 July 2008 announced as part of his *New Directions in Detention* speech that, after weighing up all the issues and costs, and giving detailed and serious consideration to the options available, the Government had determined to finalise the tender process that had been initiated by the former Government.