

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 21 FEBRUARY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(228) Program 4.2: Onshore Detention Network

Senator Cash asked:

What capacity has the department recommended to the Government as being sufficient to accommodate the number of arrivals occurring under their policies?

Answer:

The Department does not recommend an immigration detention capacity to Government.

Instead, the Department utilises a range of options to accommodate irregular maritime arrivals (IMAs) in a flexible manner that is able to respond to the dynamic requirements of the IMA detention population. This includes, for instance, the ability to increase or decrease capacity in existing centres, the commissioning of new facilities as required.