

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 21 FEBRUARY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(254) Program 4.2: Onshore Detention Network

Senator Cash asked:

I refer to comments made by David Fenwick, Manager Amaroo Care Services on Radio 882, 6PR Perth Morning Show, on Wednesday 23 February 2011 and ask:

1. Is the Department aware of a telephone call made by a representative of the Department to Amaroo Care Services in the last three weeks in which they advised that Amaroo Care Services were the owners of the Gosnells Family Hospital and that the Department were looking for a facility that could house a number of flow-overs from the detention centre?
2. Has or is the Department considering Gosnells Family Hospital as a place to house refugees?
 - a. If so when was the Gosnells Family Hospital first considered by the Department as a potential place to house refugees?
 - b. What plans are underway to house refugees at the Gosnells Family Hospital?

Answer:

1. Amaroo was approached in a single telephone call as part of a general contingency planning exercise to ensure there were options to house low risk clients for short periods. Because the facility was not available or appropriate for the purpose there has been no further discussion or interest in the premises by the Department.
2. No.