

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 21 FEBRUARY 2011

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

#### **(323) Program 4.2: Onshore Detention Network**

Senator Cash asked:

The Ombudsman “is concerned that attempting to manage more facilities by utilising the existing level of resources in geographically diverse areas potentially brings with it other problems, not least of which is ensuring the presence of adequate infrastructure and mental health services”. What plans does the Department have to review its current policy of placing detainees in remote locations following this recommendation? What is the timeframe to achieve this and what additional expenditure is required?

*Answer:*

The Department does not have a policy of accommodating people in remote locations.

When deciding where to locate immigration detention facilities the Department takes into account a number of factors including:

- availability of suitable Commonwealth or appropriately zoned private land;
- availability of services infrastructure such as power and water;
- cost of construction;
- availability of local skilled and semi-skilled labour for both the construction and operational phase;
- availability of support services including medical, emergency and law enforcement; and
- availability of transport and staff or contractor accommodation.