

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21-22 May 2007

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(170) Output 1.6: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Ludwig asked:

In a Budget 2006-07 media release the Minister stated that the consolidation of Nauru processing centres would result in a saving of \$33.8 million over four years.

1. At what stage is the consolidation?
2. What will be the future work involved in this consolidation?

Answer:

1. As at 28 June 2007, there are no asylum seekers residing at Topside.

There are 89 asylum seekers residing at the State House site, which will have a capacity for 500 residents by 30 June 2007.

2. Topside will be handed back to the Government of Nauru on 1 July 2007.

Construction of the new accommodation areas at State House will be completed by the end of June 2007. Other construction to be undertaken includes the new Australian Federal Police Protection office, a new kitchen and completion of the storage areas.