

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 24 MAY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE11/0580) Program 4.2: Onshore Detention Network

Senator Abetz (L&CA 24) asked:

Once the government decided upon this course of action, with whom did they communicate it? I am particularly interested in the Premier, the local mayor and the local federal member, and how much notice was given of the announcement?

Answer:

On 5 April 2011 the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship announced the commissioning of a new immigration detention facility to house irregular maritime arrivals at Pontville in Tasmania. Key stakeholders were advised of the news prior to the public announcement. The Minister had personally contacted the Premier of Tasmania, Ms Lara Giddings before the announcement. The following key stakeholders were contacted prior to the announcement:

- State Government (Premier of Tasmania, Lara Giddings)
- Local Government (Brighton Local Government Area, Tony Foster, Mayor and Southern Midlands Local Government Area, Anthony Bisdee, Mayor)
- Services Providers (Serco, International Health and Medical Services, Red Cross, Life Without Barriers and Immigration Advice and Application Assistance Scheme)
- Commonwealth Government (Department of Defence, Australian Federal Police (AFP), Local AFP/Local Police and Local Defence)
- External stakeholders (Council for Immigration Services and Status Resolution, Ombudsman, Australian Human Rights Commission, United Nations High Commission for Refugees, Amnesty International, Detention Health Advisory Group, Refugee Council of Australia, Local Chamber of Commerce, TAS Department of Health, TAS Torture and Trauma provider, Phoenix Support Service for Survivors of Torture and Trauma as well as relevant media contacts.