QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 1 November 2005

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(175) Output 1.3: Enforcement of Immigration Law

Senator Ludwig asked:

Has there been any time when detainees were unable to prepare hot food for more than two weeks because no facilities or equipment was available in Stage 1?

- If this was the case would this have been a breach of GSLs contract agreement?
- Has any such breach been reported within the last 12 months?
- Was any such breach reported for Stage 1 at Villawood on 26 September 2005?

Answer:

DIMIA is not aware of there being any time when detainees were unable to prepare hot food for more than two weeks because no facilities or equipment was available in Stage 1.

DIMIA is aware that for a short period in September 2005, one microwave from Stage 1 was sent away for repairs and/or replacement. Detainees had access to other microwaves in Stage 1 during this period.

GSL is contracted to provide food that is nutritional, adequate for health and well-being, dietary specific were required, stored, prepared and transported according to relevant laws, regulations and standards, and in sufficient quantities. GSL could have been sanctioned for its performance against the Detention Facility benchmarks if it failed to meet any of these standards.

No sanction related to the provision of food services has been recorded at Villawood in the last 12 months, including during September 2005.