

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 OCTOBER 2008

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(81) Output 1.5: Detention

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

In relation to the recent illegal arrivals, please advise why they have not been housed at the main Christmas Island detention centre which has been upgraded and is empty?

Answer.

The Christmas Island Immigration Detention Centre is now being used.

On 19 December 2008, the Minister approved the opening of the centre to accommodate adult male clients on Christmas Island. This allowed the Construction Camp facility to be used for accommodating children, women and families.

The new immigration detention centre will only be used to accommodate single, adult male clients.

Children, women and family groups will not be accommodated at the new immigration detention centre.