

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

**Parliamentary Inquiry : 20 February 2017**

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

**(MITA001) – PWC - Community Consultation Group**

*MP Buchholz asked:*

CHAIR: Okay; thank you. **Do you know of the community group CCG?**

Mr Nockels: Yes—and perhaps I could talk to that, because a number of people who gave testimony previously to the committee mentioned the CCG and also, broadly, consultation, and expressed a view that there was little consultation. The CCG is, as the acronym suggests, a community consultation group. It is part of standard operation at the MITA, and at any other detention facility that we have around the country, that we have a community consultation group. It is currently chaired by Georgia Paxton, who is on the Minister's Council on Asylum Seekers and Detention, or MCASD, as it is referred to. The CC group consists of reps from DIBP, Border Force, MCASD, Victoria Police, Hume council and a range of service providers, including Serco, International Health and Medical Services or IHMS—they are our health provider at the centre—and Red Cross. So it is quite a large group of stakeholders who attend the CCG. The CCG is held quarterly, and I understand the last meeting was in December of last year, and again chaired by Georgia Paxton. In September of last year, the CCG was also notified of the security upgrades that we would be looking to conduct at the MITA.

CHAIR: **Is that group limited as to its membership, in terms of: are the stakeholders potentially joining it?**

Mr Nockels: Again, I think that is a question that would probably be best put to the chair of the committee rather than me.

CHAIR: **I just think that, as a sign of good faith—since one of the comments that we took in evidence today was that there was a perception that there was no community representative in the community consultation group's make-up—it might be advantageous if we extend an offer to those people who raised those concerns in this room to join that group, as soon as possible.**

Mr Nockels: Again, I am not the chair of that group, so I think perhaps if we could ask our colleagues who are involved in the operational running of the centre, who provide the secretariat support to that committee—if we could do that through them, and approach the chair of the group and put that to her—that would be good. I do have a list of the membership. When I say 'the main stakeholders involved', obviously there are a number of people who represent each of those stakeholder groups. So I have a long list of members here.

*Answer:*

The CCG has been established to allow the Minister's Council on Asylum Seekers and Detention (MCASD), the Department, the Facility and Detention Services Provider (FDSP), the Health Services Provider (HSP) and key external stakeholders to meet and discuss any issues within the local immigration detention environment particularly related to detainee welfare.

The membership generally comprises of:

- the Chair (member/s of MCASD)
- the ABF Regional Commander (or delegate)
- The ABF Superintendent
- The FDSP centre manager (or delegate)
- Departmental or FDSP officers involved in service delivery
- a representative from the Commonwealth Ombudsman's Office
- up to ten community representatives, for a period of 12 months.

The community representatives are drawn from local community support organisations or service providers who have an interest, knowledge and commitment to making a positive contribution to the effective operation of the Immigration detention facility (IDF).

The community representation endeavours where possible to reflect the profile of the detention population, with representatives or advocates from relevant ethnic and religious community organisations.

The current CCG membership has a mixture of individuals and organisations external to the Department such as:

- Save the Children;
- Australian Red Cross;
- Hume City Council;
- Asylum Seeker Resource Centre;
- Brigidine Sisters;
- Catholic Immigration Office; and
- Melbourne Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office.

The CCG membership is currently being reviewed, given feedback from the PWC hearing.

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**(MITA002) – PWC MITA - capacity after redevelopment**

*MP Zappia asked:*

What will be the capacity once the redevelopment takes place, if it goes ahead?

*Answer:*

The operational capacity, once the redevelopment has been completed at the Melbourne ITA, is anticipated to be 288.

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**(MITA004) – PWC MITA - local services required -**

*MP Zappia Asked:*

It would be interesting to know, and you might want to take this on notice, what proportion of the local services that are required within the centre, on average, would be sourced from the surrounding community. I put that to you for your benefit. It may be useful for not only this particular project but also others.

*Answer:*

The Department and the detention service provider (Serco) are committed to working with vendors to source local goods and services. We do not have the data to estimate the proportion sourced within Broadmeadows as it captures broader Melbourne based data.

Serco accesses a wide variety of goods and services, for example pest control, locksmiths, rubbish removal, hairdressing, plumbing, minor construction, newspapers and foodstuffs. Over the last 12 months Serco has sourced over \$560,000 of foodstuffs from outlets based in Victoria.

Staff located at the site support local businesses such as service stations, grocery stores, cafes, newsagents, pharmacies and other smaller retail outlets.

Currently, the Melbourne ITA and Maribyrnong IDC contribute wages to the local Victorian community of \$40 million per annum.