

**JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON AUSTRALIA'S
IMMIGRATION DETENTION NETWORK**

Q51

Question: Whether DIAC has generated forecasts of future growth in the program, and what the costs associated with that are predicted to be.

Answer: The department continues to progressively refine estimates of the future size of the community detention program in response to various developments which influence the number of clients eligible for community detention and how long they might remain in the program.

The ongoing priority is to move all remaining women and children and their families into community detention. The department is also continuing to place a small but steady flow of single, vulnerable, adult men in community detention.

The cost of the community detention program for the 2010-11 financial year was \$17.3 million. The costs incurred to date reflect the high initial costs for the program (such as securing leases, connection fees for utilities and provision of household goods in each property). Once the program is in a relatively stable state and has run for a year or more in a steady state, then a more meaningful estimate of likely future costs can be derived.