

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

Q259

Question: Was there any delay, to your knowledge, after the advice was first given to actually get people off Christmas Island because the centre was overcrowded and it was creating tensions?

Answer: The department provided ongoing operational updates to the Minister about the situation on Christmas Island. This included updates on client numbers, capacity issues and tensions between the client cohorts.

In March 2010 senior departmental officers met with the then Minister of Immigration and Citizenship to advise that immediate decisions needed to be taken on the transfer of single men at advanced stages of processing to the Northern Immigration Detention Centre (NIDC) in Darwin. On 19 April 2010, the first group of 68 single male irregular maritime arrivals was transferred to the NIDC, the timing of which was predicated by a number of operational considerations.