

JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON AUSTRALIA'S IMMIGRATION DETENTION NETWORK

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Question: One of the examples that was given to the committee earlier was of the distress of a man who was moved from the MITA to Darwin. What assessment was undertaken of that man's mental health needs before he was moved? I would like you take it on notice and provide in confidence the assessment what (sic) was undertaken for that particular man who was moved from the MITA to Darwin, as a case study of the assessment process.

Answer: The following steps are taken to ensure that people transferred between immigration detention facilities receive continuity of care:

- International Health and Medical Services (IHMS) reviews the people identified for possible transfer and provides DIAC with advice regarding the suitability of the destination placement, taking into consideration the medical needs of the clients.
- If a transfer is to proceed IHMS completes a Health Discharge Assessment (HDA), which incorporates a Fitness to Travel (FTT) assessment. A FTT assessment may identify the need for a medical escort.
- Depending on the particular treatment needs of the client(s) a supply of medication, radiological films/reports, and relevant medical documentation will be provided to the Detention Service Provider (DSP) to accompany the client on transfer.
- IHMS conducts a health assessment of the client within 72 hours of their arrival at the destination facility. IHMS staff can access the client's medical and treatment history on their national electronic system, as well as any hardcopy reports transferred with the client. IHMS continues treatment as required.
- If a client requires more specialised medical treatment this will be coordinated between the two facilities by IHMS before the transfer occurs.

In respect of the client identified by Senator Hanson-Young, the client was transferred in accordance with the above process. Specifically, the client was transferred from Melbourne Immigration Transit Accommodation facility (MITA) to Maribyrnong Immigration Detention Centre (MIDC) in March 2011. This transfer was performed as the client had turned 18 years of age.

Due to operational requirements at the MIDC it was necessary to consider a number of clients for transfer to the Northern Immigration Detention Centre (NIDC). The client identified by Senator Hanson-Young was listed for potential transfer to NIDC.

Prior to the transfer being finalised this client, along with the other clients listed for transfer, was assessed for transfer suitability. The assessment process included seeking the views of Case Management, IHMS and Serco in relation to each of the clients who had been identified.

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Clients who had been identified by IHMS as suffering from mental or physical health issues were removed from the list, along with clients who had imminent court, tribunal or Independent Merit Review hearings on the basis of advice from Case Management.

As the client identified by Senator Hanson-Young was not the subject of any concerns raised by Case Management, IHMS or Serco, he remained on the transfer list and subsequently moved to NIDC.