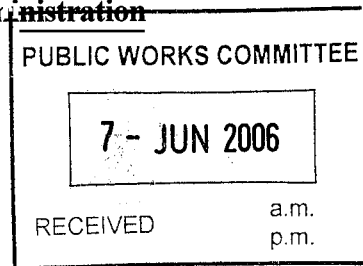


**Australian Government****Department of Finance and Administration**

Reference: 06/00217  
Contact: Greg Hammond  
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The Hon Judi Moylan (MP)  
Chair  
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works  
House of Representatives  
Parliament of Australia  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Moylan

**Villawood Immigration Detention Centre Redevelopment  
Response to Submission by The Human Rights and Equal Opportunity  
Commission.**

The Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (DIMA) and the Department of Finance and Administration (Finance) would like to take the opportunity to reply to the submission from the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission dated March 2006 concerning the redevelopment of Villawood Immigration Detention Centre at Villawood, New South Wales.

The submission from the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission makes a number of recommendations relating to the potential redevelopment, particularly the Statement of Evidence, these being:

- i. the addition of an additional objective in paragraph 2 of the PWC Statement of Evidence;
- ii. that paragraphs 87-90 of the Statement of Evidence (Immigration Detention Infrastructure Standards) include discussion of the Guidelines; and
- iii. That paragraph 91 should include the Guidelines as one of the 'Standards' to which the new facilities ought conform.

The recommendations raised by the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission are responded to below.

**1. Statement of Evidence – Paragraph 2 – Project Objectives**

The Commission recommends the addition of the following objective in paragraph 2 of the PWC Statement of Evidence:

*Ensuring that all infrastructure is designed with a view to protecting the human right of every detainee to be treated with humanity and dignity, using the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission Immigration Detention Guidelines as a point of reference.*

Response:

Finance and DIMA note the above and will reference the Commission's Immigration Detention Guidelines throughout the design phase of the project to ensure that the protection of the human rights in regard to humanity and dignity of every detainee is taken into consideration.

**2. Statement of Evidence – Paragraphs 87-90 – Immigration Detention Infrastructure Standards**

The Commission recommends that paragraphs 87-90 of the Statement of Evidence (Immigration Detention Infrastructure Standards) include discussion of the Guidelines.

Response:

DIMA notes the Commission's recommendation and will ensure that the Commission's Guidelines are referenced in the development of the Immigration Detention Infrastructure Standards.

**3. Statement of Evidence – Paragraph 91 – Codes and Standards**


The Commission recommends that paragraph 91 should include the Guidelines as one of the 'Standards' to which the new facilities ought conform.

Response:

Finance and DIMA note the Commission's recommendation in regard to paragraph 91 of the Statement of Evidence and will incorporate a reference to the Commission's Guidelines.

The plans presented in the Public Works Committee Statement of Evidence are only of a conceptual nature at this point and further design evolution is required to develop the final solution. Finance and DIMA will use the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission's Immigration Detention Guidelines as a reference during this design development process. Furthermore, Finance and DIMA would welcome the Commission's comments on the design of the facility at an appropriate point during the design phase.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Geoff Anderson".

Geoff Anderson  
Branch Manager  
Major Projects Branch - Immigration

7 June 2006