

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON MIGRATION (JSCM)
INQUIRY INTO IMMIGRATION DETENTION IN AUSTRALIA

AD HOC QUESTIONS
27 May 2009

DIAC RESPONSE

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship manages a network of Immigration Detention Centres (IDC), Immigration Residential Housing (IRH) and Immigration Transit Accommodation (ITA).

SUMMARY OF FACILITIES, LOCATION & CAPACITY

FACILITY	Regular use capacity	Design (surge) capacity
Sydney		
Villawood IDC (358 / 516)		
Stage 1	66	100
Stages 2 & 3	292	416
Residential Housing	34	48
Melbourne		
Maribyrnong IDC	70	100
Transit Accommodation	30	30
Perth		
Perth IDC	27	42
Residential Housing	11	16
Darwin		
Northern IDC	382	546
Juvenile IFF Berrimah House	12	16
Brisbane		
Transit Accommodation	29	29
TOTAL ONSHORE	953	1343

Christmas Island		
North West Point	400	800
Construction Camp	350	350
Phosphate Hill	52	104
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	48	48
TOTAL OFFSHORE	850	1302

Port Hedland Contingency Centre leased for two years with a return clause to DIAC of 3 months notice	560	720
Residential Housing	10	10
Port Augusta Contingency Residential Housing	34	48
TOTAL CONTINGENCY	604	778
GRAND TOTAL	2408	3423

DESCRIPTION OF EACH FACILITY & DETENTION POPULATION STATISTICS

Maribyrnong Immigration Detention Centre (MIDC)

Location: Hampstead Road, Maidstone

Site:

The Maribyrnong Immigration Detention Centre (MIDC) is in Maidstone, which is part of the Municipality of Maribyrnong. It is some 10 kilometres north-west of the Melbourne CBD and 10 kilometres south-east of the Melbourne Airport.

Construction Type:

The MIDC is a single level purpose built secure detention facility that was constructed in the early 1980s and was partially refurbished in 2005.

The building provides accommodation for administration and reception, a service core and accommodation zones.

The administration wing provides office accommodation for DIAC and Services Provider staff. Secure garages used for the escort and transport of people in immigration detention are located at the western end.

The central area provides staff offices and facilities, together with visitor area, the kitchen and stores and delivery area, and dining room.

The accommodation is divided into male and female areas, providing bedrooms, recreational and educational facilities, ablution and laundry areas, and outdoor exercise areas.

The Maribyrnong IDC is a total 4,684m².

Capacity:

The operational capacity of Maribyrnong IDC is 70, with a surge capacity of 100.

Usage:

The facility became operational in 1983.

MIDC Statistics

As at 29 May 2009 there were 28 people accommodated at MIDC, which constituted 4% of all people in immigration detention.

- 26 were adult males, and
- 2 were adult females.

Immigration status of people accommodated are:

- 17 were detained as a result of compliance action, i.e. overstaying their visa or breaching the conditions of their visa, resulting in a visa cancellation;
- 10 were unauthorised air arrivals; and
- 1 was detained for other reasons, i.e. including stowaways and deserters.

Application stages of people accommodated are:

- 14 had not lodged a Protection Visa (PV) application while in detention;
- 5 had a PV application on hand;
- 5 had their PV application under merits or judicial review of a decision in relation to their application for a PV;
- 4 had their PV application finalised without grant.

Length of detention of people accommodated at MIDC:

- 2 for 1 week or less;
- 4 for more than 1 week and up to 1 month;
- 8 for more than 1 month and up to 3 months;
- 7 for more than 3 months and up to 6 months;
- 3 for more than 6 months and up to 12 months;
- 2 for more than 18 months and up to 2 years; and
- 2 for more than 2 years.

Nationalities of people accommodated at MIDC:

- 11 were nationals of the People's Republic of China; and
- 17 were nationals of other countries.

Northern Immigration Detention Centre

General Information

Site Location:

The Centre occupies a portion of the current Defence Establishment Berrimah site and is bounded by the Stuart Highway on one side and Amy Johnston Drive on another.

Buildings:

There are three distinct parts of the Centre: North Compound, South Compound and the Administration area (which is external to the compounds). The total area of all buildings at NIDC is approximately 8,200m².

North compound (comprising a smaller North 2 compound)

This compound includes accommodation buildings, a kitchen mess building, which is also a cyclone shelter, outdoor and indoor recreation facilities and cabanas, ablutions, laundry, medical and visits facilities.

South Compound (comprising a medical separation area)

This compound comprises accommodation buildings, ablutions, indoor and outdoor recreation area, cabanas, a multi-use purpose built cyclone shelter, laundries, shade structures, medical separation area, primary medical facilities and processing capability.

Administration facilities

Administration for DIAC and its Detention Services Provider (DSP) is located external to the compounds. This area is comprised of three former defence buildings which have been recently refurbished. The facilities main pedestrian entry is located at the ground floor of building 9.

Capacity

The operating capacity of the NIDC is 382, with a design capacity of 546.

IFF Minors Accommodation:

Berrimah House accommodates juvenile foreign fishers. The house has an operating capacity of 12 and a design capacity of 16. The floor area of the house is approximately 213m².

NIDC Statistics

As at 29 May 2009 there was no-one in immigration detention at NIDC.

Villawood Immigration Detention Centre

General Information

Site Location:

Villawood Immigration Detention Centre (VIDC) is located at Villawood, some 28 kilometres south west of the Sydney GPO.

Site Description:

The Centre occupies an 18 hectare (approximately) site that is bounded by residential and industrial areas. The centre is entered from Birmingham Avenue, Villawood.

Buildings:

There are three distinct parts of the Centre: Stage 1, Stage 2 and Stage 3.

Stage 1 provides higher security accommodation for high risk males in 3 dormitories. Dormitories 1 and 2 have shared communal facilities, Dormitory 3 has individual ensuites. The total floor area of buildings within Stage 1 is approximately 2,109m².

Stages 2 and 3 are comprised of 12 two-storey, brick residential buildings, grouped around central grassed courtyards.

The accommodation units have either two or three bedrooms and their own bathroom.

The buildings vary from four to eight accommodation units per floor, grouped in pairs around the shared staircases.

Stage 2 provides accommodation for mainly male people in immigration detention. However, there is separate accommodation within the perimeter of Stage 2 to accommodate female people in immigration detention. Male people in immigration detention do not have access to the female area. The total floor area of buildings within the Stage 2 compound is 3,370m².

Stage 3 provides higher security accommodation for single male people in immigration detention and includes a Higher Care Unit for up to nine people in immigration detention. The total floor area of buildings within Stage 3 is approximately 2,428m².

The site also accommodates office facilities for DIAC Staff in demountable accommodation, and for the detention services provider in an older brick building known as the Transport and Escort Building. There is a bulk store, three heritage listed Nissen Huts and a heritage listed brick ammunition hut on the site.

The total floor area of all buildings at VIDC, of which there are approximately 47, is in the order of 14,000m².

Capacity:

VIDC has an operational capacity of 358, and a surge capacity of 516.

VIDC Statistics

As at 29 May 2009 there were 178 people accommodated at VIDC, which constituted 22% of all people in immigration detention.

- 151 were adult males, and
- 27 were adult females.

Immigration status of people accommodated are:

- 142 were detained as a result of compliance action, i.e. overstaying their visa or breaching the conditions of their visa, resulting in a visa cancellation;
- 34 were unauthorised air arrivals; and
- 2 were detained for other reasons, i.e. including stowaways and deserters.

Application stages of people accommodated are:

- 83 had not lodged a Protection Visa (PV) application while in detention;
- 39 had a PV application on hand;
- 25 had their PV application under merits or judicial review of a decision in relation to their application for a PV;
- 31 had their PV application finalised without grant.

Length of detention of people accommodated at VIDC:

- 6 for 1 week or less;
- 22 for more than 1 week and up to 1 month;
- 73 for more than 1 month and up to 3 months;
- 29 for more than 3 months and up to 6 months;
- 18 for more than 6 months and up to 12 months;
- 7 for more than 12 months and up to 18 months;
- 11 for more than 18 months and up to 2 years; and
- 12 for more than 2 years.

Nationalities of people accommodated at VIDC:

- 81 were nationals of the People's Republic of China;
- 11 were nationals of New Zealand;
- 8 were nationals of South Korea;
- 7 were nationals of Malaysia;
- 7 were nationals of Vietnam; and
- 64 were nationals of other countries.

Perth Immigration Detention Centre

General Information

Site Location:

The Perth Immigration Detention Centre (PIDC) is located on Baker Road, within the confines of the Perth Domestic Airport, some 10 kilometres north-east of the Perth CBD.

Site Description:

The Perth IDC site consists of a single building within the Perth Domestic Airport precinct bounded by Baker road to the south and McComb Road to the west. The extent of the site is formed by the perimeter of the building and courtyard walls to provide a level rectangular site measuring approximately 46m x 41m.

The building itself is a 'tee' shape within the rectangular site of approximately 1,880m². There are two courtyards formed by the perimeter courtyard walls adjoining the "tee" extension.

Buildings:

The building is a single storey masonry construction on slab with a flat roof concealed behind a continuous parapet. The external appearance is of a commercial development.

The gross floor area of the PIDC building is approximately 1,200m².

The north east courtyard is enclosed by a high brick wall with a recently installed see through screen. This courtyard is used for external exercise and recreation for male people in immigration detention. The north west courtyard is similarly constructed and has been modified for mixed male and female people in immigration detention, as well as providing service access to the building. This courtyard also contains a generator enclosure, storage and laundry facilities.

The building divides generally into three wings:

- The northern wing contains male detainee accommodation shared bedrooms, ablution facilities, recreation room, kitchen and dining room.
- The western wing (west of the entry foyer) contains a female detainee dormitory, observation room, DIAC administration offices, control room, interview rooms, medical room, detainee property store and foyer, and
- The east wing contains a visits/multi-purpose room, classroom, staff room, male and female staff toilets and offices currently occupied by the DSP.

Capacity:

PIDC currently has a capacity of 27 and a surge capacity of 42 people.

PIDC Statistics

As at 29 May 2009 there were 8 people accommodated at PIDC, which constituted 1% of all people in immigration detention.

- 7 were adult males, and
- 1 was an adult female.

Immigration status of people accommodated are:

- 6 were detained as a result of compliance action, i.e. overstaying their visa or breaching the conditions of their visa, resulting in a visa cancellation; and
- 2 were unauthorised boat arrivals.

Application stages of people accommodated are:

- 6 had not lodged a Protection Visa (PV) application while in detention;
- 1 had their PV application under merits or judicial review of a decision in relation to their application for a PV; and
- 1 had their PV application finalised without grant.

Length of detention of people accommodated at PIDC:

- 1 for 1 week or less;
- 4 for more than 1 month and up to 3 months;
- 1 for more than 3 months and up to 6 months; and
- 2 for more than 12 months and up to 18 months;

Nationalities of people accommodated at PIDC:

- no two people were nationals of the same country.

Construction Camp Christmas Island

Location: Christmas Island, Indian Ocean.

Phosphate Hill, Vagabond Road, Christmas Island.

Construction Camp was originally developed for the accommodation of workers constructing the North West Point Immigration Detention Centre.

Site:

Construction Camp is situated approximately 5 kilometres from the settled areas of Christmas Island and is accessed by a sealed road. It is located adjacent to the Christmas Island Recreation Centre and Phosphate Hill Facility.

Construction Type:

The accommodation consists of 88 light weight transportable accommodation buildings with shared ensuites, 3 recreational buildings, an administration building, laundry, stores building, kitchen dining facility and disabled compliant accommodation. In total there are 105 buildings on site.

The facility has a low fence line surrounding it.

Other facilities:

- medical facility for primary health care;
- gymnasium;
- all weather tennis/basketball court.

The floor area of all buildings at this facility is approximately 4,500m².

Construction Camp Statistics

As at 29 May 2009 there were 104 people accommodated at the Construction Camp, which constituted 13% of all people in immigration detention.

- 33 were adult males;
- 10 were adult females;
- 18 were female minors; and
- 43 were male minors.

Immigration status of people accommodated are:

- all 104 were unauthorised boat arrivals.

Length of detention of people accommodated at the Construction Camp:

- 71 for more than 1 week and up to 1 month; and
- 33 for more than 1 month and up to 3 months.

Nationalities of people accommodated at the Construction Camp:

- 56 were nationals of Afghanistan;
- 16 were nationals of Indonesia;
- 11 were nationals of Iraq; and
- 21 were nationals of other countries or their nationality was unknown.

Christmas Island Phosphate Hill Immigration Facility

General Information

Site Location:

The Phosphate Hill facility is located at Phosphate Hill, about 5 kilometres from the Island's main population centre.

Site Description:

The site is located on high ground on the island, adjacent to a recreation facility, pool and oval. The site is grassed and landscaped with cabanas located in the accommodation compounds.

It is a mainly flat site with separate compounds for accommodation (3), recreation, administration, medical and kitchen.

The approximate floor area of all buildings is 1,750m².

Buildings:

The facilities are second-hand transportable buildings providing facilities for administration, accommodation, commercial kitchen, medical amenities, ablution/laundry facilities, educational/recreation rooms, and four large open air multi-purpose cabanas. All buildings are fitted with air-conditioners.

Capacity:

The facility has an operational capacity of 52 and a surge capacity of 104.

Phosphate Hill Statistics

As at 29 May 2009 there were 5 adult males accommodated in **Community Detention** arrangements at Phosphate Hill (in Alpha Compound) which constituted 1% of all people in immigration detention.

Immigration status of people accommodated are:

- all 5 were unauthorised boat arrivals.

Length of detention of people accommodated at Phosphate Hill:

- all 5 had been in immigration detention for six months.

Nationalities of people accommodated at Phosphate Hill:

- all 5 were nationals of Sri Lanka.

North West Point Immigration Detention Centre (Christmas Island)

General Information

Site Location:

The North West Point IDC is located on the North –West tip of Christmas Island, about 20 kilometres from the main population centre.

Site Description:

The facility consists of permanent buildings, mainly of steel and concrete construction and the entire site within the IDC has been landscaped.

Buildings:

In addition to the eight accommodation compounds, the IDC contains a number of support, administrative and recreational facilities; main reception, induction hall, medical facilities, kitchen/stores/laundry, internal and external visits areas, interview/conference facilities, education services and facilities, active and passive recreational areas.

The total floor area of all buildings is in the order of 30,000m².

Capacity:

The IDC has an operational capacity of 400 and a surge capacity of 800.

CIIDC Statistics

As at 29 May 2009 there were 334 people accommodated at CIIDC, which constituted 42% of all people in immigration detention.

- all 334 were adult males.

Immigration status of people accommodated are:

- all 334 were unauthorised boat arrivals.

Total length of time in detention for people currently accommodated at CIIDC:

- 156 for more than 1 week and up to 1 month;
- 166 for more than 1 month and up to 3 months;
- 11 for more than 3 months and up to 6 months; and
- 1 for more than 6 months and up to 12 months.

Nationalities of people accommodated at CIIDC:

- 213 were nationals of Afghanistan;
- 82 were nationals of Sri Lanka;
- 11 were nationals of Iraq; and
- 28 were nationals of other countries or their nationality was unknown.

Sydney Immigration Residential Housing (SIRH)

General Information

Site Location:

Sydney Immigration Residential Housing is located at the Villawood Immigration Detention Centre located at Villawood some 28 kilometres south west of the Sydney GPO.

History:

Funding was provided in the 2004/05 Budget to construct Immigration Residential Housing on part of the Villawood IDC site, facing Miowera Road Villawood.

The development was designed to blend and enhance the neighbourhood streetscape.

Site Description:

The Centre occupies a 8,100 m² (approximately) site that is bounded by residential and light industrial areas.

Buildings:

The Sydney IRH comprises four blocks of two duplex units arranged in a single line. Each unit comprises 3 bedrooms, 2 living/dining rooms, kitchen, laundry and two bathrooms and toilets. The internal arrangement of each unit is designed to enable separation of living areas (with shared kitchen and laundry) if required.

Capacity:

SIRH has an operational capacity of 8 family groupings, or 34 individuals with a surge capacity of 48.

SIRH Statistics

As at 29 May 2009 there were 12 people accommodated at SIRH, which constituted 1% of all people in immigration detention.

- 10 were adult males, and
- 2 were adult females.

Immigration status of people accommodated are:

- 5 were detained as a result of compliance action, i.e. overstaying their visa or breaching the conditions of their visa, resulting in a visa cancellation; and
- 7 were unauthorised air arrivals.

Application stages of people accommodated are:

- 1 had not lodged a Protection Visa (PV) application while in detention;
- 8 had a PV application on hand; and
- 3 had their PV application finalised without grant.

Length of detention of people accommodated at SIRH:

- 5 for more than 1 month and up to 3 months;
- 3 for more than 3 months and up to 6 months;
- 1 for more than 6 months and up to 12 months;
- 1 for more than 18 months and up to 2 years; and
- 1 for more than 2 years.

Nationalities of people accommodated at SIRH:

- 7 were nationals of Sri Lanka; and
- 4 were nationals of other countries.

Perth Immigration Residential Housing

General Information

Site Location:

The Perth Immigration Residential Housing (PIRH) is located at 97-99 Kanowna Avenue in Redcliffe, approx 2 kilometres from the Perth IDC and airport, and approximately 10 kilometres north-east of the Perth CBD. One additional property nearby has been rented to increase the capacity in the short term and is being used as a PIRH 'annexe'.

Site Description:

The site is approximately 1,800 m² in size, situated in a cul-de-sac on the edge of the airport. The architecture of the housing has been designed to blend with the neighbourhood streetscape which consists mainly of State Housing Authority properties.

The land has been professionally landscaped to provide a variety of areas for outdoor activities and quiet withdrawal.

Buildings:

The housing comprises two houses each with five bedrooms, two living rooms, dining room, kitchen, laundry and two bathrooms and toilets. The houses are separated by a third building which accommodates an office, a recreation and visits room including a kitchenette and toilet facilities for staff and visitors.

The total floor area of all buildings at the Perth IRH is 636m².

Capacity:

PIRH has an operational capacity of 4 groupings, or 11 individuals and a surge capacity of 16.

PIRH Statistics

As at 29 May 2009 there were 18 people accommodated at PIRH, which constituted 2% of all people in immigration detention.

- 14 were adult males, and
- 4 were male minors.

Immigration status of people accommodated are:

- all 18 were unauthorised boat arrivals.

Application stages of people accommodated at PIRH are:

- all 18 had not lodged a Protection Visa (PV) application while in immigration detention.

Length of detention of people accommodated at PIRH:

- 10 for more than 1 week and up to 1 month; and
- 8 for more than 6 months and up to 12 months.

Nationalities of people accommodated at PIRH:

- 18 were nationals of Afghanistan.

Brisbane Immigration Transit Accommodation (BITA)

Location: Sugarmill Road, Pinkenbah

Site:

Brisbane Immigration Transit Accommodation (BITA) is located on Sugarmill Road, Pinkenbah, QLD which is adjacent to the Brisbane Airport.

Construction Type:

The site has three accommodation buildings with individual kitchenettes and lounge/entertainment area. Also included is a common use building for kitchen, meals area, induction/interview rooms, medical room, storage, as well as offices for DIAC staff, and the Detention Services Provider. All buildings are modern, spacious, single level steel construction, designed for tropical climatic conditions with air conditioning to all areas.

The Brisbane ITA is a total 1,065m².

Capacity:

The operational and surge capacity of the Brisbane ITA is 29.

BITA Statistics

As at 29 May 2009 there were 17 people accommodated at BITA, which constituted 2% of all people in immigration detention.

- 16 were adult males; and
- 1 was a male minor.

Immigration status of people accommodated are:

- all 17 were unauthorised boat arrivals.

Application stages of persons accommodated are:

- all 17 had not lodged a Protection Visa (PV) application while in detention.

Length of detention of people accommodated at BITA:

- 1 for 1 week or less;
- 2 for more than 1 week and up to 1 month; and
- 14 for more than 1 month and up to 3 months.

Nationalities of people accommodated at BITA:

- 12 were nationals of Afghanistan, and
- 5 were nationals of other countries or their nationality had not yet been established.

Melbourne Immigration Transit Accommodation (MITA)

Location: Camp Road, Broadmeadows

Site:

The site for the MITA is located 15km north of Melbourne's CBD, next door to Maygar Barracks, 120-150 Camp Road, 2km east of the Broadmeadows Town Centre.

Construction Type:

Building 734 is a 2-storey brick construction that has been refurbished and extended.

There are 16 bedrooms, two with single bed accommodation and ensuites. There are 4 sitting rooms throughout the building, a main lounge, 2 private visitor's rooms, internet lounge, dining room and kitchen. There is also an independent accommodation wing - "the Maygar Annex" – provided at the rear of the building. The facility is air conditioned and the site has been extensively landscaped.

The Melbourne ITA building is a total 1,000m².

Capacity:

The Melbourne ITA will accommodate up to 30 people.

MITA Statistics

As at 29 May 2009 there were 8 people accommodated at MITA, which constituted 1% of all people in immigration detention.

- 7 were adult males; and
- 1 was an adult female.

Immigration status of people accommodated are:

- 2 were detained as a result of compliance action, i.e. overstaying their visa or breaching the conditions of their visa, resulting in a visa cancellation; and
- 6 were unauthorised air arrivals.

Application stages of people accommodated are:

- 5 had a PV application on hand;
- 1 had their PV application under merits or judicial review of a decision in relation to their application for a PV; and
- 2 had not lodged a Protection Visa (PV) application while in detention.

Length of detention of people accommodated at MITA:

- 2 for 1 week or less
- 1 for more than 1 month and up to 3 months;
- 3 for more than 3 months and up to 6 months; and
- 2 for more than 6 months and up to 12 months.

Nationalities of people accommodated at MITA:

- 2 were nationals of Indonesia; and
- 6 were nationals of other countries.

Port Hedland Contingency Facility

General Information

Site Location:

The Port Hedland Immigration Reception and Processing Centre (PHIRC) and the Port Hedland Immigration Residential Housing (PHIRH) are located in the Pilbara town of Port Hedland, Western Australia, some 1,760 kilometres North of Perth.

The facility is some 3.23 hectares in area.

Buildings:

Erected on the site are ten 2-storey buildings of similar size and ancillary buildings, providing administration for DIAC and contractor personnel and accommodation for people in immigration detention. The construction of Blocks A – H comprise structural steel frames, clad with colour bond sheet steel to walls and linings. Blocks J and K are of masonry construction. Most of the buildings were refurbished in the late 1990's, which have extended their economic life. All blocks are centrally air conditioned.

The floor area of all buildings is approximately 3,000m².

Capacity:

The Port Hedland facility has an operational capacity of 504 and a surge capacity of 720.

Status:

This facility is leased for two years with a return clause to DIAC at 3 months notice.

Port Augusta Contingency Facility

Location: Ellis Close, Port Augusta South Australia.

Site:

Ellis Close is a cul de sac situated close into the township of Port Augusta. All buildings in the cul de sac are owned by DIAC and consist of nine 3-bedroom homes, one of which provides office type accommodation for the detention services provider. One house is disabled access compliant.

There is also a large separate recreation building on the site.

Construction Type:

All buildings, with the exception of the recreation building which is large garage style building with weatherboard cladding, are prefabricated homes of a standard similar to early public housing type construction. The buildings and grounds have been well maintained and are all in good condition.

The floor area of each house is approximately 95m².

Status:

The facility is at a state of readiness if required.