



How do we compare? Lessons from international detention practice

The Migration Committee will hear about a current study into international immigration detention and removal practice on this Wednesday (25 February). The hearing is part of the Committee's inquiry into immigration detention in Australia and alternatives.

Headed by Professor Howard Adelman of Griffith University, the study, *Dilemmas in non-citizen detention and removal: an international comparative study*, is a collaborative three-year project with the Commonwealth Ombudsman due for release later this year. Professor Adelman will speak to the Committee by teleconference from Toronto.

Committee Chair Michel Danby said that the Committee's terms of reference asked it to draw on the international experience in considering what other alternatives might be implemented in Australia.

"The Committee is looking forward to hearing the consortium's views", Mr Danby said. "We need to ensure that Australian immigration detention policy remains robust but fair and we should consider how we track with our peers."

"It is essential that the Committee have regard for international practice, and consider what options are most viable in the Australian context".

After tabling its first inquiry report in December, the Migration Committee is considering community-based alternatives to immigration detention, including those in the international experience.

The third and final report due later in 2009 will look at options to expand transparency and visibility of immigration detention centres, as well as the preferred options for infrastructure.

Details of the teleconference:

Date: Wednesday, 25 February 2009

Time: 12.15 – 1.00 pm

Location: Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House, Canberra

Witness: Research consortium on international detention practice

The hearing will be webcast on the APH website at <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>

For media comment, please contact the Committee Chair, Michael Danby MP, on (02) 6277 4520.

For background information please visit the inquiry website at www.aph.gov.au/mig or contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4560 or jscm@aph.gov.au