



## Immigration update on detention reforms

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) will appear before the Migration Committee on Wednesday (18 March) to provide an update on the Government's reforms to immigration detention. The public hearing is part of the Committee's current terms of reference looking at immigration detention and community-based alternatives in Australia.

Committee Chair Michael Danby said that this was the first opportunity for the Committee to meet with the Department of Immigration and Citizenship since the release of the first report of the inquiry in December last year.

"Our inquiry is ongoing, and we look forward to hearing further from the Department about progress in this evolving area of government policy", said Mr Danby.

"There have been some significant changes since we last spoke to the Department, the most significant being that the \$400 million detention centre on Christmas Island is now operational," he said.

Mr Danby said that the Committee would be seeking an update on implementation of the detention values announced by the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship last July. "It has been over seven months since the Minister announced the new immigration values."

"The Committee is interested in hearing about the implementation of these changes, in particular, about increasing use of community-based detention alternatives, which will be the subject of our coming report."

Mr Danby said that the Committee would also be interested in hearing about the current processing arrangements for unauthorised boat arrivals on Christmas Island.

The Committee's next report is due for tabling in early May.

The third and final report, to be tabled mid-year, will make recommendations on infrastructure, accountability and service provision in the immigration detention framework.

### Details of the hearing:

Date: Wednesday, 18 March 2009  
Time: 12.30pm – 2.00 pm  
Location: Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House, Canberra  
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 (Canberra).

**For background information**, including the full terms of reference, please visit the inquiry website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/mig/reports.htm> or contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4560 or [jscm@aph.gov.au](mailto:jscm@aph.gov.au).