



Little Company of Mary Refugee Project

4/18 Wallumatta Road
Caringbah NSW 2229

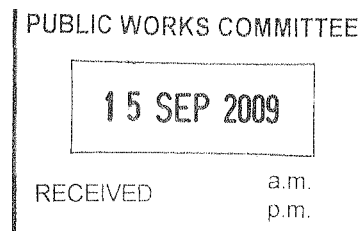
15/09/09

Submission No. 4

(Villawood)

SL 15/9/09

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works
Department of House of Representatives
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
AUSTRALIA



Dear Sir / Madame

Re: Villawood Immigration Detention Facility Redevelopment— Church Service Space

Little Company of Mary Refugee Project (LCMRP) members have been visiting Villawood Immigration Detention Centre for about 18 years, offering support to detainees and attending the Catholic Church Mass which is presently celebrated in Stages 1 and 2 each week.

There has never been an appropriate space for Church/Religious Services.

It is pleasing to note that in the presentation "Villawood Immigration Detention Facility Redevelopment" by Mr Warwick Lavers that a multi purpose room has been included in the Lower Security Visits Area. If it has not been planned, could some thought be given to ensuring that the construction material for this room is such that the room is isolated from the noise of competing activities in the adjacent visits area. There should also be the facility to exclude loudspeaker announcements from this area during Church/religious Services.

It is disappointing to note that a similar multi purpose room does not seem to have been included in the Secure Visits Area. I would urge that some consideration be given to this matter.

The opportunity for attendance at Church/Religious services provides much needed spiritual support for those struggling with issues of asylum or repatriation.

Thanks you for the opportunity to comment.

Yours sincerely,

Sr Francis Mansour lcm

Senior Member

LCMRP