

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 February 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(11) Output 1.3: Enforcement of Immigration Law

Senator Ludwig (L&C 8) asked:

Are the revised terms of reference for the new structure and expanded membership of the Immigration Detention Advisory Group available?

Answer:

The revised terms of reference for the Immigration Detention Advisory Group (IDAG) are attached. The revised terms of reference better reflect the broader role IDAG has been playing, acknowledging significant contributions to the detention consultative processes and development of key detention strategies.

The Minister is currently considering a list of nominees for the expansion of IDAG membership. There will be a public announcement once decisions are made.

IMMIGRATION DETENTION ADVISORY GROUP

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Immigration Detention Advisory Group (IDAG) will –

- advise the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs on matters relating to the detention of unlawful non-citizens in Immigration Detention Facilities (IDFs), alternative and community detention arrangements. In particular, the Group will:
 - advise on the appropriateness and adequacy of:
 - detention services provided to detainees at IDFs;
 - IDF accommodation and amenities; and
 - community detention intervention arrangements;
 - contribute to the enhancement of detention program strategies; and
 - contribute to departmental detention program consultative processes.

In addressing these issues, IDAG will:

- either individually or collectively, visit each Immigration Detention Facility at least once a year to obtain first-hand information on the operation of and environment at each centre;
- either individually or collectively liaise with non-government organisations (NGOs) and the community on a regular basis to obtain first hand information on issues faced by detainees accommodated in the community under detention intervention arrangements; and
- develop a work program, agreed with the Minister, identifying priority issues to be addressed over the next twelve months, noting that, from time to time, the Minister may task IDAG to examine and advise on a particular issue or issues.