

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 February 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(17) Output 1.3: Enforcement of Immigration Law

Senator Nettle (L&C 16) asked:

Did GSL's endeavours to have a health advisory panel satisfy the contractual terms and was it penalised?

Answer:

The Committee was advised at the Estimates hearing on 13 February that the requirement under the Detention Services Contract (DSC) for GSL to establish a Health Advisory Panel (HAP) had not been implemented.

Although GSL did have a contractual requirement to establish a HAP, their failure to achieve this was beyond their direct control.

DIMA, Immigration Detention Advisory Group (IDAG), International Health and Medical Services (IHMS) and GSL met in November 2003 to formalise the details for the establishment of the HAP. Advertisements were placed in papers and professional journals by March 2004 seeking potential members. In January 2005, a subgroup of two IDAG members, staff from DIMA and GSL agreed that an effective advisory panel could not be established from the pool of applicants.