

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE12/0326) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Boyce (L&CA 107) asked:

The Commonwealth Ombudsman in his most recent report mentioned a lack of privacy for people with disabilities as an issue. If all these people with a disability are going into new facilities why did the Commonwealth Ombudsman note this?

Answer:

The department is aware of the *Commonwealth Ombudsman Annual Report 2011* which states a general concern, across immigration detention, of a '...lack of personal privacy (particularly for people with disabilities)...' (p106)

The department's understanding is that such concerns have related to examples where a person with a disability has been required to share a room, rather than with the nature of the facilities themselves.

Clients are able to raise concerns about their accommodation with their DIAC Case Manager or the Detention Service Provider. Such concerns are considered on a case by case basis and have led to changes of accommodation on occasion.

Clients requiring special accommodation due to a disability will be placed in appropriate accommodation. Such clients are prioritised for community detention.