

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE12/0513) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Hanson-Young asked:

What are the criteria the Dept is using as checklist for determining the location of immigration detention facilities?

Answer:

The Department does not have a formal set of criteria for selecting locations for Immigration Detention Facilities (IDFs), but a number of factors are used to identify available sites according to the needs at the time.

The Department works closely with the Department of Defence and the Department of Finance and Deregulation's Commonwealth Land Register to identify Commonwealth property that is available for use.

While the Department attempts to locate IDFs close to urban centres for reasons of logistical support, time constraints may mean that remote Commonwealth land that is available at that time is selected.

The Department also looks at what type of accommodation is required for the detainees, accommodation available for the staff, access to utilities and the potential effects on the community where the IDF is located.