

siting

Partners, other children and social support representatives (eg. Clergy) may have day-time visits to the RHP (under escort) on an occasional basis. All other visits to RHP residents will occur at the Baxter IDF.

Notes:

Proposed Design of the Port Augusta RHP

It is expected that the RHP would comprise single storey houses or units capable of accommodating different family compositions. At least one house would be configured to accommodate residents with disabilities and provision will be made for these people to access the recreation and educational facilities of the township.

Consistent with detention service operational requirements, we would seek to make the RHP sympathetic to, and blend in with, the surrounding natural and built environment to the extent possible. One option for the Project's houses is the relocation of the transportable houses from Woomera.

Residential Houses Design and Configuration

The layout of the resident houses maximises the amount of privacy provided to each house. Each house is fully self contained to enable independent living with small outdoor areas adjacent to each house to give some level of privacy without interfering with security.

External common areas

Landscaping will be consistent with the surrounding environment.

May 2003

Proposed Residential Housing Project PORT AUGUSTA



Senate Legal & Constitutional Affairs
Legislation Committee
Consideration of Budget Estimates 2003-04

Tabled Document

By: *STEVE DAVIS (DUMIA)*

Date: *9:12 28/05/03*

PO Box 25
Belconnen ACT 2616
Phone: 02 6264 3999
Fax: 02 6264 2202
Email: detection.infrastructure@immi.gov.au

Residential Housing Projects (RHPs) enable women and children to live independently in family-style accommodation in a community setting, while still in immigration detention.

Alternative detention arrangements have been successfully operating in Woomera since August 2001 and continue to enjoy strong community support from the residents of Woomera.

The Woomera RHP was recently expanded and now comprises nine houses, each having three bedrooms. The backyards are integrated into a single, large landscaped open area.

One house is used as a communal facility for all participants and another is used for administration. A Colourbond fence surrounds the project and the perimeter is monitored by some alarms and security cameras.

While the configuration of the proposed Port Augusta RHP will depend on the site selected, it is expected that the arrangements that have proven successful in the Woomera RHP would be replicated at Port Augusta.



Woomera Residential Housing Project



Woomera Residential Housing Project

RHP Residents

Participation in the RHP by detainees is voluntary. It is dependent on satisfactory completion of health and character checks and an assessment that the individuals have the capacity to participate in a positive way and comply with the relevant security requirements of the RHP.

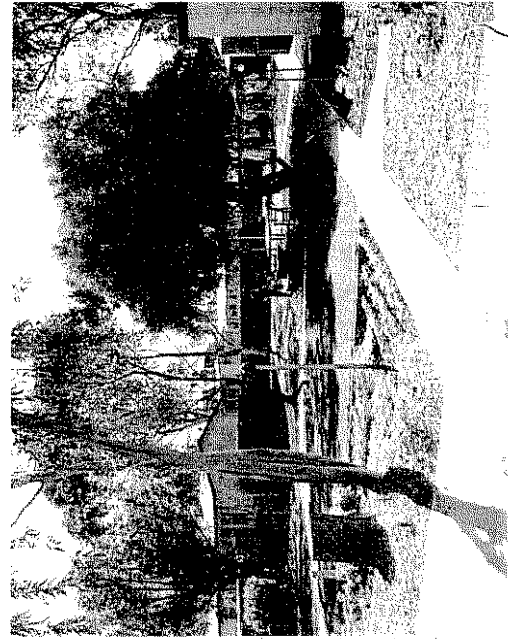
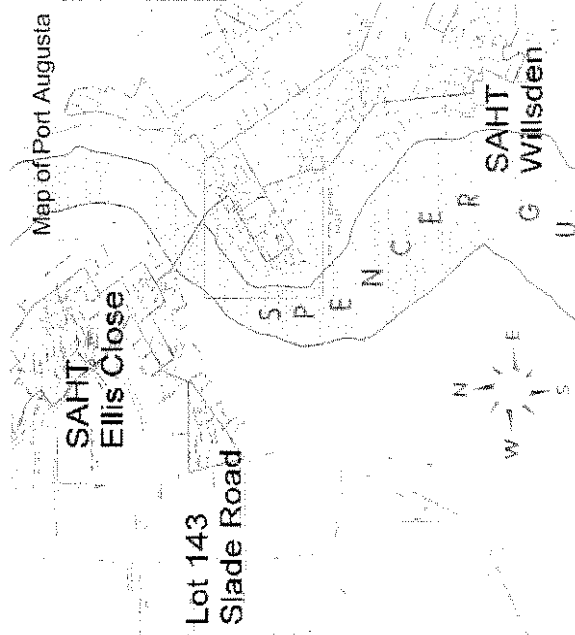
Residents are expected to cook their own food and attend to household duties. This includes accompanied visits to shop for groceries and other household necessities from local retail outlets. Residents are also able to undertake accompanied visits to local recreational facilities and attend educational and developmental activities.

The detention service provider undertakes operational and a maintenance aspect of the RHP with officers on site at all times.

Locations under Consideration for the RHP

Locations identified and agreed for consultation by the Government Steering Group on Consultation (GSGC), which included Commonwealth, State and Local Government representatives:

- South Australia Housing Trust (SAHT) blocks of land at Willsden;
- A 10 acre block on Slade Road at Port Augusta West; and
- SAHT blocks of land at Ellis Close.



Woomera Residential Housing Project

RESIDENT SURVEY

Establishment of a Residential Housing Project in Port Augusta

In establishing a Residential Housing Project (RHP) in Port Augusta we are interested in your views. It would assist us in assessing the various options proposed if you would complete the following survey and return your responses in the stamped, self-addressed envelope provided by COB 30 May 2003.

1. If a RHP was established in your neighbourhood what issues do you think will need to be addressed? (Please feel free to include any suggestions you have for addressing the issues)
2. If a RHP was established in your neighbourhood what benefits do you see there being?
3. Do you have any outstanding concerns in relation to the establishment of a RHP in your neighbourhood?
4. Would you be interested in attending a neighbourhood meeting to discuss the establishment of a RHP? (If so we will notify you of a time and place once we have received the survey responses).

Following information is only required if you answered YES to Question 4.

Name:

Address:

Telephone Number:

Most Frequently asked Questions

1. How are the residents for the RHP chosen?

Participation is voluntary. It is also dependent on satisfactory completion of health and character checks and an assessment that the individuals have the capacity to participate in a positive way and comply with the relevant security requirements.

2. What supervision will the residents have within the grounds of the RHP?

The Detention Service Provider is responsible for ensuring residents do not leave without an escort. The residents are assessed as having the capacity to participate in a positive way and comply with the relevant security requirements.

3. Will residents from the RHP receive regular visitors, including from people in the Baxter IDF?

The residents of the RHP will have the same visitation rights as if they were still in a detention facility. However, only partners, other children or social support representative may visit the RHP, all other visits will occur at the Baxter IDF.

4. Will it look like the Baxter IDF?

No. Security will be subtle and designed to blend in with the surrounding environment similar to the Woomera RHP.

5. What type of care, medical treatment and facilities will the residents have?

The residents of the RHP will receive the same care and medical services provided to them if they had remained in an Immigration Detention Facility.

6. Who will be running the facility?

The contracted Detention Service Provider (DSP) will manage the operational requirements of the RHP.

7. What is the expected population of the RHP and how many families will reside per house?

This depends on the site selected and the number of houses that can be accommodated on it. The number of families residing in each house will depend on a number of factors including the size of the family groups selected and any special needs a family may have. The experience at Woomera is that there have been no more than six to eight people per house depending on family composition.

Woomera RHP now has medium term capacity of up to 40 residents in 9 houses. Depending on the site chosen, we would expect a facility of similar size in Port Augusta.

8. What kind of interaction will the RHP residents have with the community of Port Augusta?

The RHP residents will regularly participate in activities such as shopping, visiting local recreational facilities, attending school and church. They may also from time to time attend other community events such as carols by candlelight. The DSP will accompany residents on these activities.

9. Are the residents selected to reside in the RHP healthy?

All residents have satisfactorily completed health and character checks.

10. Will the RHP increase the number of children attending schools?

The number of children attending schools will not be affected by the implementation of a RHP.

11. Who do I contact if I have more questions?

If you require more information you can contact the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs by e-mail on detention.infrastructure@immi.gov.au or by fax to 02-6264 2202 or by phone on 02-6264 3999 or by writing to The Director, Detention Infrastructure Development, PO Box 25, Belconnen, ACT, 2617.