

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 22 May 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(176) Output 1.3: Enforcement of Immigration Law

Senator Ludwig (L&C 116) asked:

In relation to the Darwin facility, perhaps you could check your records, but my understanding was that it lapsed and was not used for a while and a question was raised about why it was not being used. That is why I say the main driver for it being in use was effectively the intelligence that there was a growth in foreign fishers that would allow the detention facility to be used if needed.

Answer:

The facility has operated as a contingency facility for unauthorised boat arrivals since late 2001 and was used intermittently by Defence for operational reasons.