

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 22 May 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(246) Output 1.5: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Nettle asked:

The consolidation of the two detention centres on Nauru:

- 1) How much are the construction costs?
- 2) When were the plans for the reconstruction created?
- 3) When did construction start?
- 4) How was the capacity of the centre decided?
- 5) What contingency plans exist if arrivals exceed capacity?
- 6) Does it have a management unit?
- 7) What kind of fence will it have?
- 8) Will it have a medical unit?
- 9) How many security staff will be at the new centre?
- 10) How many DIMA staff will be at the new centre?
- 11) Who will operate the detention centre? Will it be a private contractor – GSL or IOM or DIMA?
- 12) Can you provide a copy of the contract?
- 13) How will medical, psychiatric and legal services be provided?

Answer:

The facilities in Nauru are processing centres in which the residents are in Nauru legally and are subject to visa conditions which are imposed by the Nauru Government.

- 1) The costs of remediation and the consolidation of the Offshore Processing Centre (OPC) into one site are estimated at around \$5 million, including the International Organization for Migration (IOM) project management fees.
- 2) Plans for the centres in Nauru were considered as part of the 2006-07 Budget process.
- 3) The IOM, which manages the OPC in Nauru, was tasked with having it in a state of readiness following the Budget announcement and work commenced on 10 May 2006.
- 4) The potential capacity of the OPC was determined in the light of the level of unauthorised boat arrivals experienced since 2002.
- 5) The Manus processing centre, which is currently mothballed, could be re-activated if it was required.
- 6) The Nauru OPC does not have a management unit.

- 7) Chain mesh fence, six to eight feet, no barbed or razor wire.
- 8) A well-equipped medical clinic will continue to form part of the OPC.
- 9) The number of safety and security-related staff would be determined by IOM and would, in part, be determined by the number of residents.
- 10) No DIMA staff would be involved in the operations of the centre but a DIMA officer is located on Nauru to liaise with IOM and the Nauru Government.
- 11) IOM continues to manage the OPCs in Nauru and Manus.
- 12) The relationship with IOM on OPC management derives from an exchange of letters, which are attached.
- 13) Medical services, including mental health services, would be provided by IOM as part of OPC management. Residents who requested legal services would have those requests facilitated by IOM.