

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 May 2007**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

### **(93) Output 1.5: Detention**

Senator Nettle (L&CA 118) asked:

Provide any information about management strategies for discrimination occurring in detention centres.

*Answer:*

Discrimination against people in immigration detention or against staff is not tolerated in immigration detention centres. The department has well established management strategies for dealing with such behaviour, including anti-social or bullying behaviour.

The standards governing the provision of detention services, as set out in the Immigration Detention Standards (IDS), ensure the individual circumstances of the person in immigration detention, including their gender, culture, sexual preference, medical condition and age are taken into account when determining the appropriate detention services required. In particular, emphasis is placed on the sensitive treatment of a range of people, including torture and trauma sufferers, family groups, children and unaccompanied minors, the elderly, persons with a fear of authority and persons who are seeking to engage Australia's protection under the Refugee Convention. A copy of the IDS can be obtained from the department's website at [www.immi.gov.au/managing-australias-borders/detention/standards\\_index.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/managing-australias-borders/detention/standards_index.htm)

As part of the detention induction process, all people taken into detention at immigration detention centres are made aware of the department's management strategies to prevent discrimination. Information on complaints procedures and the roles of independent bodies, such as the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission and the Commonwealth Ombudsman, are contained in an induction handbook provided to all people in immigration detention.

In addition to the IDS framework, the detention services provider has an established and enforced Anti-Bullying Policy that sets out procedures and strategies for dealing with detainee behavioural issues as well preventative strategies and related guidance to staff. The detention services provider also has related policies which assist in preventing discrimination within centres, including a Detainee and Staff Code of Conduct, a Cultural Awareness Policy, Procedures on Managing Assault and Other Criminal Behaviour, a Complaints Procedure, and a Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Policy.