

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27-28 MAY 2009

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(65) Program 4.2: Onshore Detention Network

Senator Hanson-Young asked:

Does the Federal Government still own the former Woomera detention facility, Baxter or Port Hedland? If so, what are they being used for and if not who owns them now and for what purpose?

Answer:

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship returned the Woomera facility to the Department of Defence in August 2007. The Baxter facility was returned to the Department of Defence in August 2008.

Department of Immigration and Citizenship currently leases the Port Hedland Detention facility to a company named Auzcorp Pty Ltd for the purpose of temporary accommodation in a bid to ease the acute housing shortage in north-west Western Australia. The term of the lease is for two years and is due to expire in April 2010.