

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 24 MAY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE11/0430) Program 4.2: Onshore Detention Network

Senator Cash asked:

With reference to an article in the West Australian Newspaper on 13 May 2011 entitled "Asylum Seekers held at Jandakot Airport": How many asylum seekers is the Department of Immigration housing in alternative places of detention" in WA?

Answer:

On 30 June 2011, the Department was accommodating 328 irregular maritime arrivals at the following Alternative Places of Detention (APODs) in Western Australia:

- Leonora APOD (147);
- Perth Immigration Residential Housing (5);
- Perth APOD - Jandakot Chalet (20);
- Community Detention (150); and
- Hospitals (6).

Column

Spy in sky over island camp



Asylum seekers held at Jandakot Airport

Smuggle arrest

Clearance

DOUBLE CARPARK SALE

THIS WEEKEND ONLY

UP TO 60% OFF

EMPIRE

AUSWEST

Asylum seekers held at Jandakot Airport

JANE HAMMOND

The Department of Immigration is housing about 80 asylum seekers in what it calls "alternative places of detention" in Perth suburbs.

The alternative detention centres include holiday parks and tourist chalets.

The West Australian visited one of the facilities, the Airport Chalets at Jandakot Airport, yesterday but was refused entry.

Guards in plain clothes from detention contractor Serco were posted on plastic chairs at every entry and exit point

around the facility.

It is understood that at least 30 asylum seekers are in the improvised detention centre. There was no sign of asylum seekers but at least eight Serco staff were at the centre.

The 15 A-frame chalets usually each house two people and are set among banksia and gum trees just metres from the airport runway and the control tower.

A spokesman for the department declined to say how many alternative places of detention, known as APODs,

there were in Perth.

But he said Banksia Holiday Park in Hazelmere was no longer used to house asylum seekers and plans to use the Go snells aged-care facility were also abandoned.

The Airport Chalets are owned by Jandakot Airport Chalets Pty Ltd and are usually rented at \$500 a week to long-term tenants.

The company's website apologises that the facility is "currently fully booked for the season".