

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

**SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 1 November 2005**

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

### **(130) Output 1.3: Enforcement of Immigration Law**

Senator Kirk asked:

Provide some examples of reasons why people are locked in the Management Unit?

*Answer:*

Detainees are only transferred to a Management Support Unit (MSU) when there is no viable alternative for ensuring the good order and security of the facility and the safety of those within it.

A detainee may be transferred to a MSU to prevent possible self-harm or to reduce the risk of harm to detainees, staff or the facility. In rare circumstances, a MSU may be used for immediate health quarantine purposes (for example, to protect the rest of the population from diseases such as tuberculosis). Such transfers may only occur on the condition that more appropriate arrangements are sought immediately upon transfer and are limited to no more than 24 hours.

A MSU may also be used for voluntary time away from general accommodation in the rare circumstance where more appropriate alternative accommodation is not immediately available.

A copy of the operational procedures covering the use of MSUs was tabled on 25 October 2005 in response to a question taken on notice before the Senate Legal and Constitutional References Committee Inquiry into the Administration and Operation of the Migration Act 1958.