

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

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

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

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

Senator Nettle asked:

During a recent tour of Villawood we saw a dorm in Stage One. This dorm was one room and contained about 60 bunk beds spaced a metre apart. It was something I'd expect to see in a developing world prison, not Australia.

1. Is there an overcrowding problem in Villawood Stage 1?
2. Is there a cell/separate room for each detainee?
3. How many other detainees do they generally share a cell with?
4. Do you think this standard of accommodation is appropriate?

*Answer:*

1. There is no overcrowding problem at Villawood Stage 1. It can accommodate a total of 120 detainees, currently 62 are in residence (as at 11 November 2005).
2. Accommodation in Stage 1 is shared dormitory type accommodation. Dormitories 1 and 2 are furnished with a number of double bunk beds; dormitory 3 comprises 24 rooms with two built-in single beds per room.

Additionally there are a number of single occupancy observation rooms within Stage 1.

The need for greater privacy for detainees has been recognised and a project is currently underway to construct partitioning between bunk beds.

3. All rooms within Dormitory 3 are occupied; 16 single occupancy and 8 double occupancy. All other detainees are accommodated within Dormitories 1 and 2, one person per double bunk bed.
4. The Government has recognised the need to change the Villawood infrastructure and has committed resources to the redevelopment of Stage 1 together with other facilities to support the centre as a whole. The planning and design phase is well advanced and the renewed facility is currently scheduled for completion in 2008/09. The project is being managed by the Department of Finance and Administration on behalf of DIMIA.