

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 1 November 2005

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(183) Output 2.1: Settlement Services

Senator Hurley asked:

After the 6 month period that new arrivals get looked after by service providers, is further checking done down the line to ensure a smooth transition to Australian life.

- How many migrants are in correctional facilities and how is their conditions been improved?

Answer:

Newly arrived Humanitarian Entrants receive services under the Integrated Humanitarian Settlement Strategy (IHSS) for approximately six months from the date of their arrival. Service providers conduct a needs assessment for all newly arrived entrants and develop a case coordination plan.

At the completion of IHSS services, an exit interview is conducted to ensure that all services that clients were eligible for, and assessed as needing, were supplied. At the exit interview information is provided to clients on post-IHSS support services that are available to them. Currently this involves Migrant Resource Centres (MRCs)/Migrant Service Agencies (MSAs) and agencies which receive Community Settlement Services Scheme (CSSS) funding. From 1 July 2006, the advice provided to clients exiting the IHSS will be in relation to all agencies receiving funding under the new Settlement Grants Program.

IHSS services can be extended for up to 12 months on a needs basis.

The Department does not keep a record of how many migrants are in correctional facilities.

The Australian Institute of Criminology conducted research in 1999 which highlights the difficulties analysing ethnicity and crime. It confirms that Victoria and WA Police publish limited statistics on country of birth of suspects, but these are based on perceptions of recording officers, not on documentary evidence. Victoria Police publish statistics on country of birth of offenders.

The conditions in correctional facilities are a matter for the corrections authorities of each State and Territory government.