

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 30 October 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(218) Output 1.3: Enforcement of Immigration Law

Senator Bartlett asked:

1. How many asylum seekers are there located at Toowong Private Hospital at present, where were they moved from, how long have they been at TPH and why have they been moved up to TPH?
2. Are there likely to be more detainees being sent to TPH?
3. What has been the cost of keeping them at TPH to date?

Answer:

1. On 31 January 2007, the Minister granted a Permanent Protection Visa to the client that had been transferred from Nauru to Toowong Private Hospital on 22 August 2006. The client was discharged from Toowong Private Hospital on 31 January 2007.

Two clients from Baxter Immigration Detention Centre were admitted as voluntary patients and are currently receiving in-patient care at Toowong Private Hospital. One client has been there for 6 weeks and the other client for 2 months.

2. As at 9 February 2007, no other clients in detention have been recommended for voluntary admission to Toowong Private Hospital. The decision to use Toowong Private Hospital is based on clinical advice and referrals from appropriately qualified health professionals. The Department may continue to make arrangements for future admissions if there is a clinical recommendation.

3. The Department paid a total of \$211,290.66 to Toowong Private Hospital for the client discharged on 31 January 2007. As at 9 February 2007, the Department has paid a total of \$18,150 to Toowong Private Hospital for the two clients currently in their care.