

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(278) Program 4.2: Onshore Detention Network

Senator Cash asked:

- (1) When was the decision taken to expand the capacity of the Broadmeadows centre?
- (2) Are the plans already drawn up?
- (3) Is there a contractor?
- (4) When was the contract signed?
- (5) Is Council approval required for the expansion? When was it sought? When was it received?
- (6) What will the final total capacity of the centre once all planned works are complete?
- (7) Are there any plans to further expand the centre? When? To what capacity?

Answer:

- (1) On 17 September 2010 the Minister announced that arrangements were being made to expand the use of the Melbourne Immigration Transit Accommodation for families and children. This was to add an additional 100 places.
- (2) Yes
- (3) The buildings are being leased from Joss Constructions. The lease provides for installation, maintenance and removal at the end of the lease.
- (4) While agreement had been reached prior to installation, the building lease documents were signed on 6 December 2010.
- (5) No. The facility is on Commonwealth land.
- (6) The total capacity of the MITA facility is 148.
- (7) The Minister announced on 18 October 2010 that the MITA will be a contingency option which could provide additional accommodation of up to 600 places for families and children.