

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

### **SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010**

#### **IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO**

#### **(306) Program 4.2: Onshore Detention Network**

Senator Cash asked:

What capacity has the Department recommended to the Government as being sufficient to accommodate the number of arrivals occurring under their policies, for example 6,000? 8,000? 10,000 or more?

*Answer:*

The Department does not comment on advice it has provided to Government. The Prime Minister and the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship have made the following public announcements on measures to expand immigration detention accommodation:

#### **Announcement of 17 September 2010**

The measures announced on 17 September 2010 were:

- expanded use of the Melbourne Immigration Transit Accommodation (MITA) for families and children;
- the use of Scherger Airforce Base in Queensland to accommodate up to 300 single adult males;
- increased capacity at Curtin Immigration Detention Centre (IDC) for up to 1200 single adult males; and
- a review of longer-term detention accommodation needs (the outcomes of this review were announced on 18 October 2010).

These measures provide an additional 1600 places for IMAs.

#### **Announcement of 18 October 2010**

The measures announced on 18 October were:

- to commission a facility for up to 1500 single adult males at Northam in Western Australia, to be fully operational by the end of June 2011;
- to commission a facility for up to 400 people in family groups at Inverbrackie in South Australia, to be fully operational by end December 2010;
- expansion of the use of Darwin Airport Lodge to accommodate up to 400 unaccompanied minors and people in family groups (up from the existing 200 places);

These measures provide an additional 2100 places for IMAs.