

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(326) Program 4.2: Onshore Detention Network

Senator Cash asked:

(1) When was the decision taken to expand the capacity at Airport Lodge from the initial accommodation contract?

(2) how many was it expanded by and when?

(3) Were there subsequent variations to the contract in order to expand the capacity? If yes, when did these occur?

(4) When was the decision taken to expand the capacity of Airport Lodge to 400 made?

(5) When was the contract signed?

(6) When did the work begin?

(7) Was any work at all undertaken prior to any announcement being made?

Answer:

(1) The owner has been developing the facility since February 2010, prior to the department's occupation. The department booked rooms for the initial capacity of 200 on 25 June 2010.

(2) Initially the Airport Lodge had a capacity of 200 in stage one and stage two provided accommodation for a further 200. The additional 200 came online in October 2010.

(3) The construction and planned expansion of the Airport Lodge was a commercial decision made by the owners prior to the department's involvement.

(4) The owners advised that their initial plans projected a final capacity for 400 persons.

(5) There is no contract. A rental agreement was signed on 25 June 2010.

(6) Airport Lodge was well under construction before DIAC became aware of the vacant facility.

(7) As stated previously, Airport Lodge was a commercial investment of the owners and construction had started prior to a decision to book the accommodation.