

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

9 - FEB 2005

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The Secretary of the Committee

Thankyou for the opportunity to comment on plans for extending Maribyrnong Detention Centre. I would like to make three comments:-

1. The room measurements of 2.5 x 2.5 m are very small for 4 people, particularly people who have experienced trauma and are now in a distressing situation. Their stress would be likely to be exacerbated by overcrowded rooms.

2. The section of the proposal headed Consultation with Relevant Stakeholders does not mention the people living in the detention centre. Surely, they are the most relevant stakeholders?

3. I do not think this a good use of seven million dollars of taxpayers money. I would prefer to see the total number of people in detention reduced, making increases in the number of detention places unnecessary.

The study "The Better Way" (Hotham Mission, Brotherhood of St Laurence, Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace) shows how we can save money while providing a more humanitarian alternative.

Yours sincerely,

S. R. Nash

Sue Nash