



Migration Committee's final report on detention wants all detainees treated fairly and humanely

The Joint Standing Committee on Migration has raised concerns about the standard of accommodation used to house detainees in its third and final report on immigration detention tabled in parliament today and wants better accommodation and services provided.

The Committee's recommendations, if implemented, will care for the well-being of people in immigration detention including accommodation in appropriate facilities and providing an appropriate level of service.

"The standard of the accommodation and facilities provided at many immigration detention centres were of a serious concern. The Committee has therefore recommended that detention in immigration residential housing should be used in lieu of detention in immigration detention centres, provided that it is feasible," Committee Chair Michael Danby said today.

"We have also made recommendations that will ensure that all immigration detention facilities have proportionate security measures in place, and that immigration detention centres, in particular stage 1 at Villawood and the Perth immigration detention centre, are upgraded as a priority."

Mr Danby said the Australian Government had made positive steps to introduce more appropriate and humane accommodation and facilities.

"We have an obligation to both the Australian and international community to ensure that all people in immigration detention are treated humanely and fairly," he said.

To ensure that people in immigration detention, both onshore and offshore, are provided the same level of appropriate service and improve the transparency of immigration detention facilities, the report contains a further seven recommendations including:

- the Department of Immigration and Citizenship engage an independent auditor to undertake a full review of the current immigration detention service providers and immigration detention facilities within the next three years;
- the Department of Immigration and Citizenship introduce a mandatory ongoing training program for all staff of the immigration detention service provider;
- the Department of Immigration and Citizenship publish the detention service standards;
- the Australian Government maintain appropriate physical and mental health facilities on Christmas Island;
- providing the media greater access to all immigration detention facilities, whilst maintaining the privacy of people in immigration detention;
- publishing regularly updated information on all immigration detention facilities, including statistics on the detainee population, on the Department of Immigration and Citizenship's website; and
- developing a set of public media protocols that apply consistently across all immigration detention facilities.

The report is the last in a series of three on immigration detention and all three are publicly available from the Committee's website at

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/mig/reports.htm>

For media comment, please contact the Committee Chair, Michael Danby MP, on (02) 6277 4520, or the Deputy Chair, Hon Danna Vale MP, on (02) 6277 4866.

For the full report and background information, please visit the inquiry website at

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/mig/reports.htm>

or contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4560 or jscm@aph.gov.au