JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON AUSTRALIA'S IMMIGRATION DETENTION NETWORK

Q120

Question: So what changes were made?

Answer: Following the incidents on Christmas Island, a review of the existing contingency plans for the Curtin IDC was conducted. The review was undertaken by a multi-disciplinary team comprising of representatives from DIAC, Serco and IHMS. The review resulted in the following changes and operational arrangements:

- a review of all available canteen items was conducted to ensure that accelerants and flammable items were not available to clients. This review did not find any items available in the canteen of concern;
- a full centre security risk assessment was conducted and updated on the national document distributed to Serco and DIAC national offices;
- contingency exercises were conducted (both desktop and live) to ensure the robustness of the documents and staff preparation should an event arise;
- full security sweeps of the compounds and client areas were conducted;
- stakeholders were advised of the updated site risk assessments;
- increased targeted interaction with client demographics was conducted focusing on client leaders within the facility;
- an increased presence of DIAC and Serco management within the facility.

In addition to these changes, DIAC, Serco and IHMS worked together as a multi-disciplinary team to review all proposed transfers from Christmas Island to the Curtin IDC to ensure that clients being transferred were suitable for placement at the IDC given its location, infrastructure and available resourcing. This is standard practice at the Curtin IDC where there is a very close relationship between DIAC and the Serco Security and Intelligence team, who conduct regular meetings to address security issues and identify current intelligence or risks and formulate appropriate mitigation strategies to address these issues.