JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON AUSTRALIA'S IMMIGRATION DETENTION NETWORK

Q296

Question: The committee is aware of reports, for instance in the *Sydney Morning Herald* of 23 February 2012, that the IHMS contracts have been renegotiated recently. Are you able to update the committee about the status and value of the IHMS contracts?

Answer: The department currently has two contracts with the detention health services provider, International Health and Medical Services (IHMS).

The *Health Services Contract*, which commenced on 14 January 2009 and is due to expire on 14 January 2014, covers the provision of health care services to people in immigration detention on mainland Australia.

The *Health Care Services Agreement,* which commenced on 29 September 2006 and is due to expire on 31 March 2012, covers the provision of health care services to people in immigration detention on Christmas Island.

After 31 March 2012, services for both the mainland and Christmas Island will be provided only under the *Health Services Contract*.

The combined value of the contracts is currently estimated at $769.3m, comprising the estimated value of the *Health Services Contract* of $679.8m and the estimated value of the *Health Care Services Agreement* of $89.5m.

On 17 February 2012 the contract amounts on AusTender were updated to reflect the estimated expenditure.

Contract Revision

Since the commencement of the *Health Services Contract* the number of detention facilities and the scope of the services provided by IHMS have increased.

The department or IHMS is able to propose services additional to those specified in the contracts. Under such proposals additional health services, including mental health services, have been approved on a temporary basis.

In April 2011 a departmental taskforce was established to comprehensively review the detention health service delivery model and identify required contract variations. This includes incorporating temporary proposals that had previously been approved.