JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON AUSTRALIA'S IMMIGRATION DETENTION NETWORK

Q92

Question: There is a standard set out for the number of square meters per detainee. I would like to know whether we meet that standard. Are you meeting it now? What about Curtin? Effectively what we are looking for is a time series of the performance against the standard over the last 12 months or so, ideally quarterly; if not, six months.

Answer: The specified standards for Immigration Detention Centres are 10 square metres for standard single occupancy or 15 square metres for dual occupancy. In surge conditions two clients may be placed in a standard bedroom where the clients are not related (unless it is culturally desirable to form larger groups).

The detention network has been in surge conditions since late 2009. During this time the department has maintained the required acceptable solution of two clients per standard bedroom in the general living quarters.

As a result of surge conditions the department has been required to provide additional temporary living quarters in the centres. This includes the use of recreation rooms, education rooms, dorms and marquees. This is always to be used for the shortest possible period.

Below is a table with the average square metres at the four main Immigration Detention Centres.

Average square metres for the four main Immigration Detention Centres by specific date		**Specific date**					
		30 June 2010	**30 Sept 2010**	**31 Dec 2010**	**31 March 2011**	**30 June 2011**	**30 Sept 2011**
Immigration Detention Centre	**Christmas Island**	3.1	3.0	3.0	7.5	7.5	7.3
	Curtin	4.3	3.6	4.3	3.9	3.9	4.5
	Northern	5.4	6.8	5.9	6.0	6.0	6.3
	Scherger	n/a	n/a	4.4	3.4	3.4	4.2

Please note:

1. The average squares metres is derived from the total squares metres (bedroom only) at each site in conjunction with the number of IMAs at each site on the specified date. This does not take into account ensuites, ablutions, living spaces or recreation areas.

2. Christmas Island IDC contains data for North West Point only. The other facilities on Christmas Island are alternate places of detention.

3. Scherger IDC was not operating on 30 September 2010 and 30 June 2010.