JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON AUSTRALIA'S IMMIGRATION DETENTION NETWORK

Q73

Question: Has the CISSR ever recommended to the minister that mandatory detention be abandoned? What kind of influence does it have on departmental decision making? Is it true that the CISSR has recommended to the department and the minister that decision-makers approve as many protection applications as possible, even the most marginal, in order to reduce detention populations? Has the department accepted such advice? Has the department received similar advice from any other source? Has it acted on such advice?

Answer: To the knowledge of the department, the Council for Immigration Services and Status Resolution (the CISSR) has never recommended to the minister that mandatory detention be abandoned.

The CISSR makes recommendations about strategies and standards relating to immigration detention and status resolution. It can provide views and recommendations about priority caseloads for assessment and provides some feedback on client concerns or complaints about information provision, decision making outcomes, processing times, elements of the refugee status determination process and related immigration checks when this type of information is provided to them. The CISSR's views and advice are taken into account in department client cohort planning and management decisions, as well as in the provision of advice to the minister on policy and strategic issues.

To the knowledge of the department, the CISSR has not recommended to the minister or the department that decision-makers approve as many protection applications as possible, even the most marginal, in order to reduce detention populations. The department, likewise, has no knowledge of receiving similar advice from any other source.