

**DIAC Response to HREOC Report on Observations following inspection of Immigration Detention Facilities 2007.**

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship welcomes this most recent report of inspections of its immigration detention facilities by the Human Rights Commissioner.

Overall, the report acknowledges improvements and continuing progress in our reforms to immigration detention over the past year. The Department welcomes the constructive comment on areas that HREOC believes should be further improved.

The report notes that improvements have occurred to the physical infrastructure of Maribyrnong Immigration Detention Centre, Villawood Immigration Residential Housing and Perth Immigration Residential Housing.

HREOC also acknowledges the Department's improvements of the Northern Immigration Detention Centre following recommendations from HREOC's 2006 Report.

The positive approach and attitude of staff that was noted in the HREOC 2006 report is again recognized in the 2007 report.

The report also recommends improvements to Stage 1 of the Villawood Immigration Detention Centre. The Department has also been considering these issues and will respond in detail in 2008.

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship looks forward to continuing to work with the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission to further improve detention services in 2008.