



## STRONGER FOCUS ON MENTAL HEALTH

Improved mental health services being provided by the department are being significantly enhanced by the national roll-out of an integrated mental health care program.

This comprehensive program is already running at Baxter Immigration Detention Facility (IDF) and will be extended to other facilities over the next few months.

By the end of 2005, 220 detainees had been assessed and six had a mental health plan in place, with the balance assessed as not requiring a plan.

The program provides:

- nurses with specific psychiatric training being available 24 hours a day;
- visiting consultant psychiatrists on a fortnightly basis or more often if required;
- a team approach to the provision of mental health care;
- mental health screening of all detainees on arrival and every 90 days after that, or earlier if required, and
- detainees identified as having mental health issues will be referred to a mental health team for diagnosis and the development of a mental health plan, which can include treatment outside the facility if required.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed with the South Australian Health Department to formalise in-patient care arrangements for the Baxter IDF.

This MoU is being used as a standard agreement for negotiating similar arrangements with other state and territory health bodies.

[www.immi.gov.au/department/dima\\_improvements/index.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/department/dima_improvements/index.htm)