

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21-22 MAY 2012**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

### **(BE12/0448) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seekers Management**

Senator Cash (L&CA 87) asked:

What is the process of transitioning unaccompanied minors who turn 18 over to the mainstream Humanitarian Settlement Services program? How many weeks before they turn 18 etc?

*Answer:*

Assistance with the transition to independent living for Unaccompanied Humanitarian Minors (UHMs) who are turning 18 is part of the care arrangements provided by contracted service providers and relevant state and territory government child welfare agencies. Specific arrangements and timeframes for preparation and transition to appropriate adult services depend on the needs of the individual UHM.

The Refugee Youth Support Pilot is testing a model of accommodation, education and support to assist transition to independent living for older UHMs. Referral of UHMs in the Pilot to mainstream humanitarian settlement services generally commences four weeks prior to the UHM's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.