

**JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON AUSTRALIA'S
IMMIGRATION DETENTION NETWORK**

Q167

Question: Could you take on notice how many independent advocates will be appointed to those 75 unaccompanied minors? If it is Life Without Barriers, how many Life Without Barriers staff will be accompanying those children?

Answer: The contract with Life Without Barriers (LWB) stipulates the provision of an 'Independent Observer' service.

The role of the Independent Observer (IO) is to provide pastoral, or physical, care of the child throughout formal processes. IO numbers vary from time to time in response to operational requirements and are reflective of the number of formal processes performed in any given period (i.e. entry processing, age determination interviews, discharge processes etc). Since arriving in Leonora, the 75 unaccompanied minors have had 4 LWB IOs and 1 LWB IO Team Leader available to them during any formal processes.