

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 21 FEBRUARY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(264) Program 4.2: Onshore Detention Network

Senator Hanson-Young asked:

- 1) What supports are set up for unaccompanied minors?
- 2) Are those supports available when needed? Can the children ask for the support at any time?

Answer:

1)

Clients in Immigration Detention Facilities:

As the contracted service provider, Life Without Barriers (LWB) provides support to Unaccompanied Minors (UAMs) in immigration detention facilities and Alternative Places of Detention by providing:

- Facility based, 24hr live-in care; and
- Facility based, non-live-in, daily care and welfare support visits.

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) has case management responsibility whilst LWB provide the role of care coordination.

Services provided by LWB include:

- Pastoral care provided by cultural and linguistically diverse cultural support workers;
- Provision of suitably trained and screened professional care staff to supervise day to day care arrangements;
- Ensuring that the accommodation is properly maintained by the clients, and health, recreational, emotional and spiritual needs of the clients are attended to, and appropriate referrals made where challenges or issues are identified;
- Development and management of immigration care and welfare support services and programs for unaccompanied minors; and
- In consultation with DIAC and the Detention Services Provider, delivery or facilitation of recreational, educational or other programs that are appropriate to the client cohort and to the specific site and that provide, enhance or develop:
 - o Opportunities for recreation;
 - o English language skills, and
 - o Independent living skills.

Clients in Residence Determination Arrangements:

The Australian Red Cross has managed the care and welfare of people in residence determination over the past five years and is the lead agency for the expansion of residence determination arrangements, including for UAMs. Australian Red Cross sources accommodation, residential/out-of-home care, case workers and other services from a range of community agencies. In addition to an Australian Red Cross case worker, UAMs also have a live-in carer. Currently, organisations providing those services (in a subcontractor capacity to the Australian Red Cross) are Jesuit Refugee Services, Marist Youth Care, Hotham Mission Asylum Seeker Project and Life Without Barriers.

A comprehensive and client-focused care plan is prepared for all people, including UAMs, placed in the residence determination program. This plan defines the appropriate services and support arrangements. School-aged children generally attend the school in the community in which they are living. DIAC pays any additional costs incurred, such as the hiring of English as a Second Language teachers, if required.

2) These supports are provided to UAMs placed within immigration detention facilities, alternative places of detention such as motels and residence determination arrangements. UAMs are able to request further support at any time to their care service provider or DIAC case manager.