

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE12/0432) Program 4.3: Offshore asylum seeker management

Senator Cash asked:

A report in the SMH on 16 December 2011 indicated that eight teenage asylum seekers, all minors had their community housing revoked and been moved into adult detention facilities. The report went on to outline that two boys were moved from a Melbourne home to the Villawood Detention Centre after a verbal fight. What is the background to that story?

Answer:

Eight unaccompanied minors were referred to the Minister for consideration that their residence determinations be revoked following breaches of the conditions attached to these arrangements. The breaches occurred in November and December 2011 and included, but were not limited to, aggressive behaviour.

The Minister subsequently revoked their residence determinations pursuant to section 197AD of the *Migration Act 1958*.

Clients are informed orally and in writing of the conditions of their community detention arrangements upon entry into the program, and clients sign to indicate their acceptance of them.

Following their revocation, the eight clients were transferred to the Melbourne Immigration Transit Accommodation (MITA). Subsequently, four were transferred to the Darwin Airport Lodge (DAL), two were transferred to the Sydney Immigration Residential Housing (IRH) and two remained at the MITA.

The Sydney IRH, the MITA and the DAL are all alternative places of detention and are flexibly used to accommodate a range of clients depending on operational requirements, including both adults and children. All of these sites are less restrictive forms of immigration detention.