

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES - 25 FEBRUARY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE14/112) PROGRAMME – 4.1: Visa Compliance and Status resolution

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

What safeguards are in place to ensure adequate supervision of unaccompanied minors in detention?

Answer:

There is a range of safeguards in place to ensure appropriate supervision of unaccompanied minors (UAMs). The arrangements can vary depending on where the minor is located and on their age, level of maturity or whether they have special needs.

The majority of UAMs are currently accommodated in community detention. Most UAMs live with a carer in a group house arrangement with other UAMs and each is allocated a caseworker to oversee their care and welfare. Contracted service providers are responsible for providing day-to-day care for these minors, which includes appropriately supervising them.

In addition to broadly monitoring and caring for their well-being (including their overall safety), community detention service providers supervise UAMs in a range of specific ways, including, but not limited to:

- ensuring UAMs are aware of, and comply with, their community detention conditions, appropriate curfews and house rules;
- managing daily behaviour;
- ensuring that school aged-children attend school; and
- escalating or reporting to the department issues or concerns relating to UAMs, including any inappropriate behaviour or significant medical issues.

Where UAMs are required to be accommodated in alternative places of detention a contracted service provider provides age appropriate care and support for them, including day-to-day supervision.