

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES - 25 FEBRUARY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE14/115) PROGRAMME – 4.1: Visa Compliance and Status Resolution

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

For those in community detention, what safeguards are in place to ensure welfare of these unaccompanied minors?

Answer:

A group housing model for unaccompanied minors (UAMs) includes consideration of ethnicity, religion, individual vulnerabilities, and the level of support required, with the overall aim of making the household compatible.

UAMs reside with a 24 hour live-in qualified carer. The carer works closely with a caseworker to provide for the daily care and welfare of the UAMs. Carers are required to provide a safe, secure and supportive environment.

Protocols for reporting instances or risks of harm to children in community detention are in place and used by all contracted service providers. Any reported issues are followed up by the department, and includes engagement with state/territory child welfare agencies where relevant.