

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21-22 MAY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE12/0449) Program 5.1: Settlement Services for Migrants and Refugees

Senator Cash (L&CA 87) asked:

Please provide the average length of stay in provided accommodation for unaccompanied (humanitarian) minors. Please provide a breakdown by country of origin, age and gender for unaccompanied humanitarian minors who have arrived in Australia in the 2011-12 financial year to date.

Answer:

Departmental systems do not support reporting on the average period of stay in accommodation provided for unaccompanied humanitarian minors (UHMs).

UHMs who do not have an approved adult carer are placed in the care and accommodation of a contracted service provider. As at 31 May 2012, 128 UHMs resided in Life Without Barriers accommodation and a further 48 were provided with accommodation through the Refugee Youth Support Pilot. The typical age of entry to the UHM program is 16-17 years and UHMs may remain in the program until the time of their eighteenth birthday.

The attached table provides breakdown by nationality, age and gender of unaccompanied humanitarian minors who have been settled in Australia in the 2011-12 financial year (up to 31 May 2012). Unaccompanied Humanitarian Minors have been granted permanent humanitarian or protection visas. Eligible minors begin to receive services under the Unaccompanied Humanitarian Program as follows:

- Offshore clients – on arrival in Australia.
- Onshore clients – on grant of a Protection visa.

Onshore clients arrive in Australia prior to grant of their visa. Consequently, a number of the minors included in the attached table may have arrived in Australia in financial year 2010-2011, but were granted a visa and commenced receiving services under the UHM Program in 2011-12.

UHM Settlement by age, nationality and gender: July 2011 - May 2012

(includes wards of the Minister for Immigration & Citizenship, and non-wards receiving services under the UHM Program)

Age group	Nationality	Male	Female	Total
0 to 13 years	OTHER*	9	4	13
0 to 13 years Total		9	4	13
14 years	OTHER*	7	2	9
14 years Total		7	2	9
15 years	AFGHAN	16	1	17
	OTHER*	8	1	9
15 years Total		24	2	26
16 years	AFGHAN	85	1	86
	IRANIAN	15	0	15
	OTHER*	23	6	29
16 years Total		123	7	130
17 years	AFGHAN	169	0	169
	ETHIOPIAN	13	0	13
	OTHER*	18	8	25
17 years Total		200	8	208
GRAND TOTALS		362	24	386

* Where numbers from a particular country were less than 10, they have been aggregated to protect privacy.