

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE:**

**SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 17 OCTOBER 2011**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

**(SE11/0329) Program 4.3: Offshore asylum seeker management**

Senator Hanson Young (L&CA written) asked:

Community Detention: How many weeks have people have been waiting since signing for community detention?

*Answer:*

Current processing procedures provide that a client is only asked to provide consent (by the signing of a document, entitled "Privacy and Personal Medical Information Consent") after a number of initial pre-referral checks in relation to a community detention placement are undertaken. Once checks are successfully completed, a referral is made to the Australian Red Cross to source an appropriate address. On occasions, there may be difficulties in sourcing appropriate accommodation, for example, for large family groups or where clients need access to hospitals or request to be close to family members in the community.

Once an address is obtained, a submission is made to the Minister to enable him to consider the exercise of his non-delegable and non-compellable power under section 197AB of the *Migration Act 1958*.

If the Minister does choose to exercise this power, then transfer arrangements to move the client into community detention are made. Timing is dependent upon a number of factors including suitable travel arrangements and carer arrangements for unaccompanied minors.