

JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON AUSTRALIA'S IMMIGRATION DETENTION NETWORK
AUSTRALIAN SECURITY INTELLIGENCE ORGANISATION

Senator Hanson-Young asked the following question at the hearing on 22 November 2011:

Mr Irvine: There is a canard going around at the moment that we do security assessments on young children. We do not. There may, one day, be a time when Immigration will refer to us a teenager for special consideration, but we simply do not subject children under the age of, I think, 16 to a security assessment process.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: So 16-year-old or 17-year-old unaccompanied minors could be referred to you?

Mr Irvine: They could be. I do not know how many have.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Could you take that on notice?

Mr Irvine: Yes.

The additional answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

As previously stated, as at 22 November 2011, ASIO had not issued any adverse security assessments in relation to minors.

In the period since ASIO's appearance at the public hearing, ASIO issued one adverse security assessment in relation to an irregular maritime arrival who, according to DIAC determination, was aged 17 at the time of the assessment.

Following DIAC request, from January 2010 ASIO issued 304 non-adverse security assessments in relation to unaccompanied minors aged between 16 and 18 years.