

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE12/0318) Program 4.3: Offshore asylum seeker management

Senator Cash (L&CA 85) asked:

What is the internet policy for unaccompanied minors in community detention? Are they entitled to video games or consoles?

Answer:

The Department funds the provision of one computer per four unaccompanied minors (UAMs) living in a UAM community detention household, with limited internet access. The cost of the computer and peripheral equipment (including software, printer etc) is to be no more than \$1000.

Software must include a program to limit internet access to approved websites, for example, parental control software.

Computer games may be purchased within this budget, but must adhere to appropriate ratings for under 18s. All computers and related items remain in the UAM household when clients move on.

For each computer, capped internet usage of up to \$50 per month is funded by the Department. The contracted service provider is to determine which internet service provider offers best value for money. Internet delivery is to be managed by the contracted service provider (that is, the UAMs do not sign contracts for provision of internet).

The Department requires all UAMs to sign an 'appropriate use of the internet' agreement. This sets out the UAMs' responsibilities in using the computer and internet while in the community detention UAM property. A poster with these responsibilities should also be displayed near the computer location. The agreement should be retained by the contracted service provider for record keeping purposes. The content of the agreement and associated poster may be incorporated into household rules, but must not be amended without prior agreement from DIAC.

It is the carer's responsibility to ensure that the UAMs adhere to the 'appropriate use of the internet' agreement. Where UAMs are found not to be following the guidelines they may be barred from using the internet for a period of time. Where the UAM continues to breach the guidelines, this may represent a care and well-being concern and should be reported to the Department's case manager.