

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 24 MAY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE11/0257) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash asked:

What is the Red Cross's role in providing services to unaccompanied minors?

Answer:

The Australian Red Cross coordinates and manages the care and welfare of unaccompanied minors in community detention through a range of sub-contracted arrangements for live in care.

Currently, organisations providing those services include Anglicare, Jesuit Refugee Services, Marist Youth Care, Hotham Mission Asylum Seeker Project, Uniting Care, Mackillop Family Services, Catholic Care, Berry St, Wesley Mission and Life Without Barriers.

While in community detention unaccompanied minors have access to:

- health services, including mental health counselling;
- schools or other education services;
- computer and internet; and
- other activities such as sports.

The unaccompanied minors have their food and other living expenses paid for and receive a small personal allowance for purchase of personal goods.

Red Cross, or its subcontractors, provide 24 hour live in care support for unaccompanied minors. Case management support continues to be provided by the Department. Health services are accessed through the Department's contracted health provider, International Health and Medical Services.