

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21-22 MAY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE12/0447) Program 5.1 Settlement Services for Migrants and Refugees

Senator Cash (L&CA 86) asked:

Under the Migration Act, given that the minister is the legal guardian of the unaccompanied minors, what reporting does the department require from the NGOs as to the status of the settlement of the unaccompanied minors in terms of their welfare, et cetera?

Answer:

The level of reporting required varies with the degree of vulnerability of the particular Unaccompanied Humanitarian Minor (UHM). All clients have care plans but the Department is more closely involved in care plans for clients with high or complex needs, to ensure that particularly vulnerable UHMs are well supported in accordance with the Minister's guardianship responsibilities.

Service providers are required to maintain case files on UHMs, which are available to the Department on request, and reporting requirements include quarterly meetings and written notification of incidents and their resolution.

The Department works in close partnership with service providers providing accommodation, care and support to UHMs.

Where serious health and welfare issues arise, the Department frequently liaises with service providers as circumstances require.