

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE:

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 17 OCTOBER 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE11/0411) Program 5.1: Settlement Services for Migrants and Refugees

Senator Cash asked:

Please provide details of the total cost of payments for settlement support and welfare supervision for Unaccompanied Humanitarian Minors (UHMs) for the years 2009, 2010 and 2011 YTD and who were these payments made to and what auditing procedures are in place for these agencies?

Answer:

As the UHM Program operates in financial years, expenditure for services to UHMs is provided below for financial years 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12 to 31 October 2011:

2009/10: \$4,331,331

2010/11: \$7,496,879

2011/12: \$1,707,559
(to 31 October 2011)

Payments totalling the above amounts were made to state child welfare agencies, Life Without Barriers, a not-for-profit organisation contracted to provide care and accommodation to UHMs in Queensland and Western Australia, and AMES, a service provider contracted to provide settlement services in Victoria under DIAC's Humanitarian Settlement Services program, which provided accommodation for UHMs at various times.

Payments made to service providers by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship, and financial obligations associated with these payments, are made in accordance with the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* and associated regulations, policies and instructions.

Any additional audit procedures and requirements that service providers are subject to are a matter for these organisations.