JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON AUSTRALIA'S IMMIGRATION DETENTION NETWORK

Q43

Alternative Detention Arrangements

Question: What agreements or contracts have been entered into with NGO's to manage those released under residence determinations? What are their obligations and responsibilities in relation to those released? What obligation is placed on NGO's to have failed asylum seekers available for removal?

Answer: The department has a contract with the Australian Red Cross for the delivery of services to clients in community detention. In addition the department also has a separate contract with Life Without Barriers for the provision of support to some unaccompanied minors in community detention.

The Australian Red Cross has established a number of sub-contracted arrangements for care of clients in community detention. Organisations currently providing these services include AMES, Multicultural Development Association, 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.

The department's requirements for the care of clients in community detention are contained within the contract with the Australian Red Cross. The key requirements are:

- accommodation is sourced which is suitable to client's needs;
- accommodation is furnished according to the standard household formation package;
- client is provided with a financial allowance;
- client has access to health services facilitated, including mental health as required;
- client is supported to enrol children at schools, use public transport and amenities, and linked with community groups and other providers as required;
- a client care plan is prepared for every client outlining their needs and support;
- monthly reports prepared for each client/family group;
- all incidents that occur while in community detention are reported to the department.

In relation to unaccompanied minors the Australian Red Cross is required to provide 24 hour live in support and care in addition to the points above.

In addition clients in community detention have regular contact with their departmental case manager and can raise any concerns about their community detention placement with them.

The Australian Red Cross, or their sub-contracted agency, is required to provide emotional and welfare support and facilitate referral to appropriate specialist support to community detention clients following notification of a negative decision or a decision to remove a client.

The Australian Red Cross, or their sub-contracted agency, will continue to provide care and support to the client while arrangements are made for their return. The return arrangements are managed by departmental officers.