

TEMPORARY PROTECTION VISA PROGRAM, PROTECTION OF MINORS

602. Ms WARNOCK to the Minister for Family and Children's Services:

- (1) What steps have been taken by the Department of Family and Children's Services to ensure that suitably aware, skilled and linguistically appropriate persons are appointed guardians to unaccompanied minors resident in Western Australia under the Safe Haven scheme of the Temporary Protection Visa Programme?
- (2) What steps have been taken by the Minister's Department to ensure proper and adequate access to unaccompanied minors held in detention by the Federal Government prior to being granted a Temporary Protection Visa?
- (3) In view of the protocol agreed to by the Federal and State Governments in relation to young people at risk, what steps have been taken by the Ministers Department to protect young asylum seekers under indefinite detention?

Mrs van de KLASHORST replied:

- (1) Family and Children's Services staff who have refugee minors on their caseloads have a range of backgrounds and experience. Staff receive ongoing supervision, support and training to assist them in providing effective and appropriate services to refugee minors.
- (2) The Commonwealth Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs is responsible for the care of all refugees including refugee minors until their refugee status is determined and they are released from detention centres.
- (3) Family and Children's Services is not aware of the protocol referred to in the question.