

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Social Services Portfolio
2014-15 Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 897

Topic: Multiculturalism

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Brown asked:

1. In the Budget, there is no mention of the Settlement Grants Program. What is the current status of this program?
2. If the program has been abolished: what settlement support will be available for newly arrived migrants?
3. If funding has been cut from the program: how much funding was cut and how will this affect the support usually provided under the Settlement Grants Program?
4. Will funding be solely allocated to Migrant Resource Centres, rather than both MRCs and ethnic specific organisations?

Answer:

1. Funding for settlement grants of around \$183 million has been allocated over four years from 1 July 2014, under *Outcome 2: Families and Communities, Programme 2.1 – Settlement services* (page 98 of the Department of Social Services Portfolio Budget Statements 2014-15).
2. Refer to Answer 1.
3. Refer to Answer 1.
4. Migrant Resource Centres and other ethno-specific organisations may apply for settlement grants funding. Refer to <http://www.dss.gov.au/grants> for more information on eligibility requirements for the current funding round.