

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

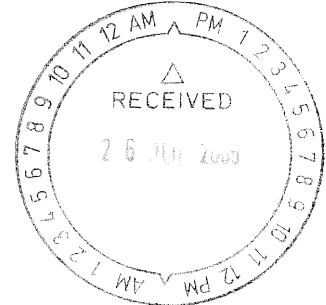
Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates, 31 May to 2 June 2005

Question: Bud 50

Topic: ABS - Translators

Hansard Page: Written



Senator Ludwig asked:

Regarding the employees that your department or agency has identified as having:

- a) fluency
- b) accredited translator
- c) accredited interpreter

Of these employees, please indicate what the department is doing in order to make full use of its employees skills in this regard, and please provide a breakdown of this between employees whose accreditation was paid for by the department and those whose were not?

Answer:

The ABS does not collect information from employees in relation to a), b) or c).

It does collect information volunteered by employees in relation to language first spoken, father's first language and mother's first language, through its Workplace Diversity Statistics Database.

The ABS has identified the need to establish a voluntary database of language and cultural skills to be used for projects that require specialised skills. The proposed deadline for establishment of this database is June 2006.

To date, employees who speak another language have been approached to volunteer their services to assist with particular collections/processes. Informal lists are held by the areas who have sought these volunteers.

The ABS has not paid for accreditation of translators or interpreters to date, but this will be investigated as part of the establishment of the language and cultural skills database.