

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet**

Supplementary Budget Estimates 18-21 October 2010

**Question: PM78**

**Asked By: Senator Xenophon**

**Topic: Department of Multicultural Affairs**

**Type of Question: Written**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 3 December 2010**

**Number of pages:**

- a) Can the Department advise why the Multicultural Affairs portfolio has been dissolved?**
- b) What has happened to the programs run under that portfolio?**
- c) Which portfolios now have responsibility for the areas previously covered under Multicultural Affairs?**
- d) Can the Department advise how the Government will continue to give multiculturalism in Australia the priority it deserves now that there is no specific portfolio or Minister?**

**Answer:**

- a) Can the Department advise why the Multicultural Affairs portfolio has been dissolved?**

The Multicultural Affairs portfolio has not been dissolved. The Department of Immigration and Citizenship retains responsibility for Multicultural Affairs. Part 12 of the Commonwealth of Australia's Administrative Arrangements Order prescribes that matters dealt with by the Department include arrangements for ethnic affairs and multicultural affairs.

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**b) What has happened to the programs run under that portfolio?**

Programs under that portfolio continue to be delivered by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship.

**c) Which portfolios now have responsibility for the areas previously covered under Multicultural Affairs?**

The Immigration and Citizenship portfolio continues to retain responsibility for multicultural affairs.

**d) Can the Department advise how the Government will continue to give multiculturalism in Australia the priority it deserves now that there is no specific portfolio or Minister?**

**Answer:**

The Australian Multicultural Advisory Council provides the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship and the Parliamentary Secretary for Immigration and Citizenship with advice on social cohesion issues relating to Australia's cultural and religious diversity and issues relating to the social and civic participation of migrants in Australian society.

On taking up her new position, the Parliamentary Secretary for Immigration and Citizenship, Senator the Hon Kate Lundy, met with the Australian Multicultural Advisory Council and underscored the priority of multicultural issues to the Government.

The Government is finalising its response to the Council's statement *The People of Australia*: The Australian Multicultural Advisory Council's statement on cultural diversity and recommendations to Government. A response is expected in 2011.