

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 February 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(112) Output 2.4: Promoting the Benefits of Cultural Diversity

Senator Hurley asked:

According to DIMA annual report 'Departmental officers met with community groups in Brisbane, Newcastle, Townsville and Wagga Wagga to discuss specific issues of racism and the potential for response through the community grant program'. (203)

- (a) What was the outcome of this meetings?
- (b) What implementations have been made in line with discussion?

Answer:

- (a) The outcomes of the meetings included a greater understanding by attendees of the Living in Harmony initiative, in particular, an increased awareness of the community grants application process. The groups that attended the meetings also took the opportunity to discuss their experience of racism and its impact in their local community. Attendees were encouraged to apply for funding under the 2005 Living in Harmony community grants round.
- (b) Several organisations that attended the meetings subsequently applied for community grants. Given the highly competitive nature of the Living in Harmony programs, not all of those applications were successful. Those community organisations that attended meetings and were successful in applying for funding were: Brisbane City Council, Corporation of the Synod of the Dioceses of Brisbane, Mayfield Mainstreet committee (an official committee of the Newcastle City Council) and the University of Newcastle. A complete listing of the grants awarded in 2005 is available on the website www.harmony.gov.au.