

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 February 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(77) Output 2.1: Settlement Services

Senator Hurley (L&C 108) asked:

Provide a report on what a standard curriculum for AMEP students covers.

Answer:

The *Certificates 1-3 in Spoken and Written English* (CSWE) form the basis of the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) standard curriculum. The CSWE focuses on providing a framework for English language learners to develop the language and literacy skills required to:

- undertake further education and training
- seek and maintain employment
- participate in the community.

The Certificates are accredited, nationally registered, and meet the principles of the *Australian Qualifications Framework*. They provide a common language for describing the characteristics of learners and course provision.

The CSWE allow learning pace, course length, intensity and delivery mode to be varied depending on learners' needs and abilities. There is an integration of spoken and written language throughout the 3 levels, with each Certificate underpinned by a theory of language that systematically relates language to the contexts in which it is used.

The Certificates provide a pathway of language development for learners which is based on an understanding that different contexts of language use make different demands on the language user, and progression in language learning is described in terms of interacting with increasingly demanding contexts of use. CSWE III allows students to choose a focus for their learning, depending on the goals, employment, further study or community participation.

The CSWE support explicit and systematic teaching practice. However, at any of the 3 levels courses can be delivered via a number of methods such as face-to-face classroom tuition, individual learning, distance learning and e-learning.

The topics covered in each learning module cover a broad range of topics, for example:

Under CSWE I

- provide personal information using spoken language
- answering the phone
- can complete a short application form

- write a short note or message - telephone messages
- writing notes to school
- participate in short spoken transactional exchange - buying things
- give spoken instructions, reading a recipe, giving directions
- demonstrate understanding of a spoken information
- read a short recount or narrative, can write a short recount

Under CSWE II

- participate in a short casual conversation on general topics
- negotiate a spoken transaction for goods and services -making a medical appointment - arranging a service
- read a procedural text - instructions at work - instructions at home
- complete a formulated text - applying for a course
- respond to spoken instructions
- can leave a telephone message
- can read an informal letter
- can write a formal letter involving explanation - changing study arrangements - a problem for the landlord

Under CSWE III

Students choose a focus for their learning, depending on their goals: employment, further study or community participation.

- can provide a spoken explanation – Why I chose this course
- participate in a discussion – Agree to disagree
- can write an informal letter or email
- demonstrate an understanding of spoken instructions – Feeding times
- can negotiate a complex/problematic spoken exchange – wrong booking – overdue library book
- participate in an interview – finding a share house – work experience
- can deliver a short presentation – water wise