

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 FEBRUARY 2008**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

### **(72) Output 2.1: Settlement Services**

Senator Ellison asked:

Has the Government or the Department begun talks with States, Territories, local governments and communities themselves to dramatically improve settlement support for refugees, asylum seekers and other vulnerable migrants?

*Answer:*

Ongoing discussions between Commonwealth, state and territory governments on a range of matters, including settlement, are undertaken through the Ministerial Council on Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (MCIMA). MCIMA meets annually and is due to meet mid-year.

In addition, the Parliamentary Secretary for Multicultural Affairs and Settlement Services has recently engaged on a national consultation process and has met with Adult Migrant English Program providers, Migrant Resource Centres and ethnic community groups.