

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 FEBRUARY 2008

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(93) Output 2.4: Promoting the benefits of a united and diverse society

Senator Ellison asked:

- (1) How many officers are employed as part of the department's community liaison officer network which reaches around 6500 community groups?
- (2) Will the department provide a list of these groups and their contact details to the committee?

Answer:

- (1) There were approximately 38 full time equivalent Community Liaison Officers employed for the period 1 July to 31 December 2007 in state and territory offices of the Department of Immigration and Citizenship.
- (2) In 2006-07 the Department maintained contact with around 6500 community organisations and individuals through the Community Liaison Officer network. The Department has concerns about the information being made public due to community sensitivities. The information has been gathered from diverse communities in good faith and disclosure of an organisation or individual's contact with the Department could compromise the relationship between the community and the Department.