

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 9 FEBRUARY 2010

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

#### **(65) Program 5.1: Settlement Services for Migrants and Refugees**

Senator Barnett (L&C 124 ) asked:

The department is in the process of trialling a variety of service delivery models through the funding of a number of pilot projects. Are there any particular pilot projects you can advise us of? Are there any in Tasmania?

*Answer:*

The Department is supporting a range of pilot projects designed to deliver positive outcomes in relation to settlement issues relevant to housing and community development.

While there are no specific SGP pilot projects in Tasmania, there are a number of significant projects the Committee may be interested in:

#### **Housing Pilot Projects**

Pilots are being funded under the Settlement Grants Program to assist entrants to overcome barriers to accessing affordable private rental accommodation, including targeted assistance in understanding tenancy rights and responsibilities and the provision of post-tenancy

Funding was made available under the Settlement Grants Program (SGP) to fund housing activities in selected locations on a pilot basis in 2008-09. Projects were delivered by:

- QLD - 4 Walls and St Vincent de Paul
- VIC - New Hope Foundation and the Migrant Information Centre
- WA - Centacare
- SA - Bowden Brompton Community Group

Funding to the projects in Queensland, Victoria and South Australia has been continued for the 2009-10 financial year. Evaluation of the projects has commenced and results should be available mid 2010.

## **Developing Communities Pilot Projects**

Three community development pilot projects were funded in 2009-10 in a new approach to promote active engagement between service providers and local communities.

The organisations funded for the pilot community development projects are:

- NSW - Youth Off the Streets with SydWest Multicultural Services Inc
- VIC - The Centre for Multicultural Youth
- SA - The Vietnamese Community of Australia (VCA) and Burundi Community of South Australia

## **Pilot Extension of Free Interpreting Services to Real Estate Agents**

Complementing the targeted accommodation projects, an extension of Free Interpreting Services has commenced for real estate agents through the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) in recognition of the challenges many new arrivals face in accessing housing. This pilot is linked to select projects under the Settlement Grants Program. Approved real estate agents work with SGP providers delivering housing and accommodation related projects. Each state and territory is represented. In Tasmania, Centacare is the participating SGP provider. The pilot will conclude in mid-2010 and an evaluation will be undertaken to inform a possible broader service extension which would take account of national settlement patterns and identified needs.

We would be happy to provide the Committee with further information on any of these projects.