

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 FEBRUARY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(349) Program 6.1: Multicultural and Citizenship Services

Senator Cash asked:

Adult Multicultural Education conducted a citizenship course to the value of \$33,000.00. How many people attended this course, where were they from, what were the course outcomes?

Answer:

A citizenship course *Our Common Bond: A Course in Australian Citizenship* has been developed as an alternative test for people who are likely to have difficulties when undertaking a computer-based citizenship test, for example, people with limited literacy or schooling, or people who have failed the test three times or more.

Without further details it is difficult to identify the specific course in question. However, from 31 May to 20 December 2010, 20 citizenship courses were delivered by Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) Service Providers over three separate cycles. 19 courses were delivered in selected metropolitan areas and one course was delivered in regional Shepparton. The courses are funded through AMEP appropriations.

In total, 648 clients were deemed eligible and were subsequently invited to attend the courses. From the 648 clients invited, 295 clients confirmed they would attend the courses and 268 clients actually enrolled in the courses.

Of the 268 clients that enrolled in the courses, 245 clients passed the course, 91% of the total number of clients who attended. Only 15 clients failed the course, 6% of the total number of clients who attended. The remaining 3% of clients withdrew from the courses.

The top five countries of birth for clients who passed the course were Iraq, Afghanistan, Sudan, China and Lebanon.