

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE12/0466) Program 5.1: Settlement Services for Migrants and Refugees

Senator Cash asked:

AMEP: In written response to question (SE11/0401) it was identified that 55 00 clients had accessed the AMEP yet only 2482 had achieved a certificate in spoken English and reached functional English. Is this deemed a satisfactory success rate?

Answer:

The Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) provides free settlement focused English courses for eligible migrants and humanitarian entrants who do not have functional English.

The AMEP is structured to meet the individual needs of its diverse client base. Clients enter the program with a wide range of capabilities and attain different levels of English proficiency at different rates depending on factors such as first language proficiency and English proficiency on entry to the AMEP.

The AMEP uses the Certificates in Spoken and Written English (CSWE), a competency-based national curriculum and assessment framework, to measure English proficiency; starting at pre-CSWE and progressing to CSWE level III.

In 2010-11, 86 per cent of exiting clients completed a Certificate at Level I, II or III.

This comprises:

- CSWE Level III 22 per cent
- CSWE Level II 21 per cent
- CSWE Level I 43 per cent

A further 14 per cent were awarded statements of attainment.