

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 26 May 2004

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(88) Output 2.1: Settlement Services

Senator Ludwig (L&C 87) asked:

In relation to the consultation on the IHSS Discussion Paper released in February, provide a copy of the summary paper of the responses.

Answer:

A summary of the responses to the IHSS Discussion Paper is attached.

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(89) Output 2.1: Settlement Services

Senator Ludwig (L&C 88) asked:

When do the current IHSS contracts expire?

Answer:

27 of the 39 IHSS service contracts expire on 30 June 2004. The remaining 12 contracts will expire between July 2004 and March 2006.

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(90) Output 2.1: Settlement Services

Senator Ludwig (L&C 92) asked:

In relation to the IT system for the MRCs, provide a copy of the further discussion paper.

Answer:

The Department expects to finalise its discussion paper on the *Collection of Client Statistical Information* in July 2004. A copy will be provided to the Committee when it has been finalised.

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(91) Output 2.1: Settlement Services

Senator Ludwig (L&C 93) asked:

(a) Are you currently developing a national computerised settlement client information system? (b) How long ago was that? (c) Was that a one-off funding initiative to provide MRCs with computer hardware and software? (d) Was it then expected that they would fund replacements out of their own budgets after that?

Answer:

- (a) Yes.
- (b) In July 1999, an electronic software system called the Settlement Client Information System (SCIS) was issued to Migrant Resource Centres (MRCs)/Migrant Service Agencies (MSAs) to replace their previous method of client data and statistical reporting.
- (c) The development and implementation of SCIS was fully funded by the Department and was supported with an ongoing freecall helpdesk service. Prior to implementation, the Department funded MRCs/MSAs for the purchase of computer hardware. The software has been regularly updated to improve its performance. The last release was in mid 2002.

In the 2002-03 program year, additional funds were available under the 'Grants for Migrant Community Services' Administered Item appropriation, on a one-off basis. As a result, two MRCs were provided with additional funds to purchase computer equipment.

- (d) Yes. It is not the Department's practice to provide open-ended funding to external organisations for their computer equipment.

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(92) Output 2.1: Settlement Services

Senator Ludwig (L&C 95) asked:

Provide a breakdown of all the elements that are included in the additional AMEP budget, such as the increased humanitarian program numbers, the extra hours of tuition for some young refugees and the inclusion of the regional skilled migrants.

Answer:

The impact of the 2004-05 budget on the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) is summarised in the following table:

Year	2003-04 Additional Estimates (\$'000)	2004-05 Budget Measures				2004-05 Budget Position (\$'000)
		Humanitarian Program	Settlement Services for Migrants and Humanitarian Entrants	Migration (Non Humanitarian) Program	Economic Parameters*	
2004-05	120,893	4,426	10,644	1,495	-18	137,440
2005-06	125,981	4,537	8,471	1,535	-133	140,391
2006-07	126,048	4,650	8,653	1,571	-137	140,785
2007-08	126,358	4,766	8,901	1,786	2406	144,217

Note: This figure represents the change in economic forecast parameters since the last published estimate and as such will differ from that published on in table 2.1.2.1 of the PBS, which represents the cumulative change between financial years as a result of the application of economic parameters.

The increase in the Humanitarian Program from 12,000 to 13,000 places resulted in additional funding being allocated for the provision of English tuition. The funding will contribute to both the Special Preparatory Program (SPP) and the AMEP.

Increased funding for Settlement Services will enable humanitarian entrants with low levels of schooling in the 16-24 year old age group to be offered up to 400 hours of tuition under the SPP, and supplement existing hours offered to those over 24 years up to 100 hours. Funding allocated in 2004-05 includes \$8.244m for English tuition, \$0.05m for systems development, and \$2.35m for development of curriculum materials. Funding in future years is solely for English tuition, with the exception of 2007-08 which also includes \$0.150m to enable a review of the additional hours.

Funding has been allocated through the Migration (non-humanitarian) program to assist eligible spouses and dependents of the new Skilled Independent Regional visa, and the adult members of families recruited under MedicarePlus, to access the AMEP.

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(93) Output 2.1: Settlement Services

Senator Ludwig (L&C 97) asked:

When will the outcome of the SAAP agreement negotiations be known?

Answer:

It is anticipated that the outcome of negotiations will be announced before the expiration of the current SAAP IV agreement on 30 June 2005.

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(94) Output 2.3: Australian Citizenship

Senator Kirk (L&C 98) asked:

Does the government have a target level of cost recovery for applications for Australian citizenship?

Answer:

No.

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IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(95) Output 2.3: Australian Citizenship

Senator Kirk (L&C 99) asked:

For 2003-04 what was the average period of time between being granted Australian citizenship and the conferral of the citizenship?

Answer:

For persons conferred with Australian citizenship in 2003-04, to the end of May 2004, there was an average of 91 days, and a median period of 82 days, between grant of citizenship and conferral.

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IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(96) Output 2.4: Appreciation of Cultural Diversity

Senator Kirk (L&C 101) asked for a list of the groups with which DIMIA has a productive diversity partnership.

Answer:

Through the Productive Diversity Program, the Department has engaged with the following organisations to produce a range of products to promote the benefits of diversity:

- AMP, McDonald's, Ford Australia, Telstra and Drake International to produce five business case studies;
- Ford Australia and Woolworths to produce the *Diversity - A Way of Life* training kit;
- Drake International, Australian Industry Group's Sir William Tyree Foundation and Innovation Xchange, and the Australian Human Resources Institute to produce a report, *Making Diversity Work ... for your organisation and Australia's future*;
- European Australian Business Council to organise a 2004 Harmony Day business lunch in Melbourne, *Engaging the New Europe*;
- Hong Kong-Australia Business Association to organise a 2004 business lunch in Sydney, *Doing Business with China*; and
- AUS-MEAT, Dairy Australia, the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service, and National Foods Industry Standards to produce a case study on the current and potential contribution of the Halal food industry to the Australian economy.

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(97) Output 2.4: Appreciation of Cultural Diversity

Senator Kirk (L&C101) asked: In relation to the Living in Harmony program, provide a list of both the public and private sector partners.

Answer:

Since the inception of the initiative in August 1998, Living in Harmony partnerships have been established with:

- Aboriginal Nations Australia Pty Ltd
- Access Online Pty Ltd
- ACT Festivals Inc
- Australasian Police Multicultural Advisory Bureau / National Police Ethnic Advisory Bureau
- Australian Cricket Board
- Australian Federation of Islamic Councils
- Australian Information Industry Association
- Australian Multicultural Foundation
- B'nai B'rith Courage to Care (NSW) Inc
- City of Melbourne
- Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation
- Ethnic Broadcasters Inc and Multicultural Communities' Council of South Australia
- Ethnic Communities' Council of New South Wales
- Equal Employment Opportunity Commission of Victoria
- Girl Guides NSW
- Indigenous Festivals Australia Ltd
- Koorie Heritage Trust Inc
- NSW Department of Education, Conference of Education Systems Chief Executive Officers Sub-Group on Racism in Schools
- NSW Rural Fire Service
- Oz Concert Inc
- State/Territory Ethnic/Multicultural Affairs Office/Commission
- Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games
- The Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Kiama
- We Are Australian Art Inc

Living in Harmony partnerships are currently established with:

- Australasian Police Multicultural Advisory Bureau
- Australian Information Industry Association
- Australian Multicultural Foundation
- Girl Guides NSW
- Indigenous Festivals Australia Ltd

Harmony Day Partners for 2004 were:

- Australian Football League
- AMP
- Austereo Radio Network
- Bunnings Warehouse
- Computer Science Corporation
- Coca-Cola Amatil
- Ford Motor Company
- Guides Australia
- McDonalds Australia
- News Limited
- Sydney Swans
- SBS
- Scouts Australia
- Surf Life Saving Australia
- Telstra
- Ten Network
- Tennis Australia
- Volunteering Australia
- Woolworths Limited

The 19 partners in 2004 was the highest number achieved for any Harmony Day.

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(99) Output 3.1: Indigenous Policy

Senator O'Brien (L&C 22) asked:

What was the last calendar day for which ADR Solutions sought payment?

Answer:

20 November 2003.

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BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27 May 2004

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(100) Output 3.1: Indigenous Policy

Senator O'Brien (L&C 22) asked:

Was the Department or the Minister required to be a referee for the job Mr Hannaford did on the ATSIC review?

Answer:

No.