

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 23 May 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(274) Output 2.1: Settlement Services

Senator Hurley asked:

Re: ACL former client Ms Clodine Nisasha

1. What were the reasons for ACL exiting this family?
2. Has any financial assistance been forthcoming for the organisation that has taken over Clodine's settlement needs?
3. What refugee sub-class is she?
4. ACL has affectively lost a client out of a caseload whose settlement is being funded by the taxpayer. What happens to those allocated funds? Is ACL contractually required to reimburse either DIMA or the new settlement organisation in question as a result of this?

Answer:

1. Ms Nifasha requested to be exited from IHSS in May 2006, as she felt isolated from the other Burundian entrants who had left IHSS in February 2006. This was subsequent to the IHSS meetings with the Burundian community held in March 2006. Ms Nifasha had also expressed dissatisfaction with the services she had received from ACL.
2. The Migrant Resource Centre of Newcastle and the Hunter Region (MRCNH) has been funded by DIMA over a number of years to provide general migrant community services. In the recently announced grants round for 2006-07 the MRCNH received \$716,666 under the Settlement Grants Programme. Funding is for a range of activities in 2006-07 to 2008-09.
3. Visa sub-class 200.
4. IHSS Service Providers are paid on a per-case basis. Reimbursement is not an issue in this case as the full range of services was provided to Ms Nifasha.

General migrant community services, which Ms Nifasha has been referred to, are funded through the Settlement Grants Programme (SGP), which commenced on 1 July 2006. Prior to this, general migrant community services were provided under the Community Settlement Services Scheme.