

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 22 May 2007

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(114) Output 2.1: Settlement Services

Senator Hurley (L&CA 35) asked:

Provide details of the programme to encourage potential interpreters to gain accreditation.

Answer:

The 2007-08 Budget provided \$0.4 million over four years to DIAC to encourage new interpreters in community languages where there are continuing shortages.

Parameters for the implementation of this initiative are currently being developed. However, the initiative will build on a pilot project DIAC conducted with the National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI) in 2005-06.

The pilot ran during 2005-06 and provided the funds for participants to attend NAATI workshops which assist participants to understand how to work as an interpreter in Australia and how to prepare and apply for NAATI Accreditation or Recognition (Recognition is the qualification available for those languages for which testing - i.e. 'Accreditation' - is not available). The pilot project also covered the fees for NAATI Recognition or Accreditation.