

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 29 MAY 2008

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(60) Output 2.1: Settlement Services

Senator Ellison (L&CA 16) asked:

Is there any fee increase or charge increase for the Adult Migrant English Program?

Answer:

Yes.

The Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) fees and charges listed on page 18 of the Portfolio Budget Statements 2008-09 refer to the second instalment of the Visa Application Charge (VAC). The VAC is payable for some visa applicants 18 years and over with less than functional English. The VAC is due to increase on 1 July 2008, subject to the commencement of the *Migration Legislation Amendment Regulations (No 1) 2008*. The amount of the increase is 2.3 per cent and is based on the change in the Consumer Price Index over the 2007 calendar year.

The other and more substantial increase in anticipated revenue from AMEP fees and charges is as a result of the increase in the 2008-09 migration program.