

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 29 MAY 2008**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

### **(82) Output 2.4: Promoting the Benefits of a United and Diverse Society**

Senator Ellison (L&CA 55-56) asked:

In relation to the promotion of the benefits of a united and diverse society, at page 49 of the portfolio budget statement the wording in the first dot point under output group 2.4 no longer includes 'promote mutual respect, Australia's democratic values'. Why have these sentiments been taken out?

*Answer:*

Activities funded under the Living in Harmony program aim to address issues of cultural, racial and religious intolerance by promoting respect, fairness, inclusion and a sense of belonging for everyone.

The change of wording to the Portfolio Budget Statements in 2008-09 reflects the program's overall objective of addressing issues of racial intolerance while promoting social cohesion.

The Living in Harmony program is under review and the language used in the Portfolio Budget Statements is deliberately broad and general.