

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27 MAY 2009

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(54) Program 5.1: Settlement Services for Migrants and Refugees

Senator Fierravanti-Wells (L&CA 73) asked:

Provide a list of the nine new projects that were funded under the Settlements Grants Program (SGP) for 2008-09. Provide details about each of those nine projects and, if possible, reasons why they did not get funding in the first round.

Answer:

The SGP is an oversubscribed program where all funding needs cannot be met. States and territories are allocated funding based on weighted factors. Initial funding recommendations were based on national funding priorities and the settlement needs in particular regions.

In the 2008-09 funding year, Budget adjustments to the SGP appropriation resulted in an additional \$719 144 becoming available as a result of an increase in the migration program.

Recommendations for new projects and additional funding for existing projects were made by each state and territory office in consultation with National Office.

A total of nine new projects were funded from the additional funds and a further 16 existing projects received increased funding.

The nine new projects were all assessed as meeting the SGP funding criteria (and targeting priority settlement needs) but had not been recommended for funding initially due to other competing priorities. When additional funds became available, these projects were able to be funded.

The nine projects funded after the additional funding became available are summarised below:

Australian Alevi Cultural Centre Inc. NSW \$52 020

The Alevi community had an on-going need for settlement services. This project delivers those services in the Central Western Sydney and Blacktown Statistical Sub-divisions (SSD). It provides newly arrived Alevi migrant and humanitarian communities with casework services and information and referral services.

The project also aims to assist the community in developing its capacity to gain other sources of funding and support. Funding was offered on the condition that the organisation establishes and implements a strategy to transition clients to mainstream services.

Maronite Catholic Society NSW \$40 800

The Lebanese Maronite community had an on-going need for settlement services. The project, delivered in the Central Western Sydney and Blacktown SSDs, aims to promote self reliance in individuals and families through the development of life skills and the provision of information regarding access to mainstream services. The project aims to assist the community in developing its capacity to gain other sources of funding and support. Funding was offered on the condition that the organisation establishes and implements a strategy to transition clients to mainstream services.

Lebanese Community Council NSW \$72 828

Services to Arabic speaking clients in Canterbury-Bankstown, and overall funding to the Lebanese community organisations needed to be maintained due to residual settlement needs for this group. The project aims to improve access to mainstream services through the provision of casework, referrals and group information sessions. The project will also work with mainstream services to increase their awareness and ability to promote access to these services. One year funding would enable the organisation to put in place transitional arrangements for these clients.

Gippsland Multicultural Services Incorporated Vic. \$40 000

The project provides community development services in Gippsland for the rapidly growing Sudanese community in the Latrobe Valley and also the proposed Burmese Karen community in Wonthaggi. Through working in partnership with a range of mainstream agencies the project aims to assist the target group to successfully access the full range of services and programs needed to become independent members of their local communities. This project also aims to assist the identified communities to develop their own capacity to advocate for their own needs, source funding grants, and participate in the local community.

Migrant Information Centre (Eastern Melbourne) Vic. \$82 502

The project aims to achieve successful housing outcomes for migrant and refugee households seeking assistance in finding appropriate housing in the private rental market in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne. The project targets refugee households who are seeking to move from one private rental property to another after their initial settlement under the IHSS program as well as refugee and family stream migrant households who need to move into a new property in the private rental market during the first five years of their settlement.

Multicultural Development Association QLD \$50 000

The project provides community development services for the Iraqi and Afghan communities in Brisbane through leadership training, the development and launch of community profiles and integration activities.

The Gowrie WA \$80 000

The project provides generalist services to SGP-eligible clients in the Perth South East metropolitan area. There is a large SGP client group located in this area and the funding provided enables expansion of services to this group.

Migrant Resource Centre Southern Tasmania TAS \$70 000

The project aims to promote and provide leadership training to increase community leaders' capacity to represent and advance community interests, provide support, mentoring and consultancy services to community groups and increase their independence and ability to self-advocate.

Three new and emerging communities were targeted to receive community development support afforded by these activities - Sudanese, Congolese and Sierra Leone-Liberian Union.

Wodonga City Council (managed by ACT office) \$45 000

The project will fund additional community development activities. This region attracts a large number of secondary migrants and settlement assistance is required for these entrants. Funding allows the Wodonga City Council to work collaboratively with the Albury Wodonga Volunteer Research Bureau to achieve community development outcomes.