

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27-28 MAY 2009

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

#### **(59) Program 5.1: Settlement Services for Migrants and Refugees**

Senator Humphries asked:

1. At the Additional Estimates in February the department was asked about the review of the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP). Has the review been published yet?
2. You stated in February that there was a tender process underway, yet I understand that a second one year extension of AMEP contracts has been notified to current providers. What is the reason for this?
3. Is the department aware that service providers expecting to go to tender have been unable to do any forward planning as a result of the delay? Would it not be fairer to either call for tenders now or to issue long term extensions?

*Answer:*

1. Outcomes of the review of the AMEP were taken into consideration in the context of the 2009-10 Budget and in the development of a new AMEP business model. The new model will include an enhanced case management role for AMEP counsellors with a greater focus on improving client outcomes within the program and facilitating client pathways to employment, further education and training. These initiatives will be funded by streamlining and increasing administrative efficiency.
2. As part of its commitment to review all Government programs, the Australian Government conducted a review of English Language Skills Programs. It was necessary to negotiate extensions to AMEP contracts to enable any outcomes of this review to be incorporated into the new AMEP model.
3. Yes. As a consequence of the Government review of English Language Skills Programs, AMEP contracts are being extended to 30 June 2010. A Request for Tender (RFT) could not be released until development of a new AMEP business model. This is currently underway and the RFT is expected to be released in October of this year.