

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27 May 2010

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

#### **(135) Program 6.1: Multicultural and Citizenship Services**

Senator Fifield asked:

- (1) How much funding over the forward estimates has been allocated to the Diversity and Social Cohesion program outlined on page 264 of Budget paper no. 2?
- (2) With the Diverse Australia program being integrated into the new Diversity and Social Cohesion program (Budget paper no. 2, pg 264), will the main elements of the Diverse Australia program continue? Those being community grants, emerging issues funding, and Harmony Day.
- (3) Incorporating the changes outlined on page 264 of Budget paper no. 2, how much funding over the forward estimates has been allocated to the Diverse Australia program, or the services and grants it previously delivered?
- (4) How much funding over the forward estimates has been allocated to deliver the 'community grants' and 'emerging issues funding' sections of the Diverse Australia program?
- (5) Are there any plans to change the eligibility requirements of the 'community grants' or the 'emerging issues funding' grants offered under the Diverse Australia program?
- (6) What has been the total expense of the Diverse Australia program over the past 4 years?

*Answer:*

- (1) Funding over forward estimates has been allocated to the Diversity and Social Cohesion Program as follows: \$2.687 million in 2011-12; \$2.32 million in 2012-13; and \$2.334 million in 2013-14.
- (2) All grant elements of the Diverse Australia Program have been incorporated into the new Diversity and Social Cohesion Program and will continue in 2010-11. Harmony Day will continue to be a focus of the Multicultural Affairs Branch.
- (3) The changes outlined on page 264 of Budget paper no. 2 reflect departmental savings, not savings in the grant funds allocated to the Diversity and Social Cohesion Program. The savings result from efficiencies gained through the amalgamation of the Diverse Australia Program and the National Action Plan to Build on Social Cohesion, Harmony and Security Community Grants.
- (4) Funding levels for Community Grants and Emerging Issues Funding are unchanged over forward estimates from the former Diverse Australia Program to the Diversity and Social Cohesion Program.
- (5) The eligibility criteria for grants remains unchanged, for example funding is available only to not-for-profit, incorporated organisations, activities must be solely within Australia and projects must address issues of cultural, racial and religious intolerance.
- (6) The total expense of the Diverse Australia Program, from July 2006 through to end May 2010, is \$6.688 million.