

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 24 MAY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE11/0727) Program 5.1: AMEP / Settlement Services for Migrants and Refugees

Senator Cash (written) asked:

What measures has the Department considered to improve attendance at and completion of the AMEP?

Answer:

The AMEP has a number of initiatives in place to support clients throughout their entitlement.

A key initiative is the enhanced role of AMEP counsellors. AMEP counsellors provide educational and vocational guidance to clients (including referrals to appropriate support services as necessary). The AMEP counsellor will undertake timely follow up of client non-attendance and determine learning modes that best suit the needs and situation of a client. AMEP clients are able to access a range of learning delivery modes including face to face tuition, the Home Tutor Scheme, self paced e-modules and Distance Learning.

Other measures introduced with the AMEP business model that aim to improve participation in the AMEP are:

- a single national provider to deliver Distance and e-Learning to AMEP clients;
- enhancement of the Home Tutor Scheme; and
- the introduction of a new AMEP settlement course upon entry to and exit from the program.

To facilitate the participation of clients with under school age children, free childcare continues to be provided while the client is in class.