

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 24 MAY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE11/0755) Program 5.1: AMEP / Settlement Services for Migrants and Refugees

Senator Cash asked:

Has the department received complaints from the members of the community in relation to the settlement services provided in the Newcastle Hunter region?

Answer:

General concerns about the delivery of IHSS settlement services in the Newcastle and Hunter region were raised in September of 2005 and again in a statement made to Parliament in May 2006 by Ms Sharon Grierson MP.

On 21 February 2011, the Department received a letter on the subject of settlement services in the Hunter region from Penola House.

On 11 April 2011, Minister Bowen received a letter from the member for Newcastle, Ms Sharon Grierson MP.