

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 24 MAY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE11/0761) Program 6.1: Multicultural and Citizenship Services

Senator Furner asked:

The policy includes the implementation of a new national anti-racism partnership and strategy and a new full time race discrimination commissioner. Can you please provide an outline of how this new partnership and strategy will operate and what organisation and government bodies it will bring together?

Answer:

The decision to appoint a new full time Race Commissioner for the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) was announced by the Government on 27 January 2011. The appointment process will be undertaken by the AHRC.

The new National Anti-Racism Partnership and Strategy will be an arrangement between the Department of Immigration and Citizenship; the Australian Human Rights Commission (and the Race Discrimination Commissioner); the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs; the Australian Multicultural Council (an initiative of the new multicultural policy which replaces the Australian Multicultural Advisory Council whose term expires on 30 June 2011); and the Attorney-General's Department. The partnership will also consult extensively with non-governmental organisations in shaping and implementing its strategy.

The partnership will design, develop and implement the strategy. It will have five key areas of effort: research and consultation; education resources; public awareness; youth engagement and ongoing evaluation. It will also take into account and build on existing efforts and resources in these areas.

It is proposed that the lead agency for the strategy will be the Australian Human Rights Commission. Once the lead agency is confirmed it is anticipated that the partnership will commence work later this year.