

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 24 MAY 2011**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

**(BE11/0769) Program 6.1: Multicultural and Citizenship Services**

Senator Michaelia Cash (Written) asked:

An Item Objective of the Department in the PBS is "to provide grants to community organizations to build social cohesion through community relations". Money however from this program has been diverted to other programs. How can this outcome be achieved if there has been a diversion of funds?

*Answer:*

As part of Australia's Multicultural Policy announced by the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, the Government has re-prioritised the existing scope of the Diversity and Social Cohesion Program (DSCP) to include funding for multicultural arts and festivals small grants. \$500 000 over four years will be allocated to these grants. This does not impact on outcomes relating to social cohesion through community relations as these grants provide an opportunity for Australians of all backgrounds to come together and experience different cultural experiences. This is consistent with the aims and objectives of the DSCP.

Some funding from the DSCP appropriation has also been quarantined to fund projects under the Community Engagement Strategy of the International Student Strategy for Australia. The issues being addressed through projects also align with the intended outcomes of the DSCP.