

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 1 November 2005**

**IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO**

### **(189) Output 2.1: Settlement Services**

Senator Hurley asked:

According to the report of the review of settlement services for migrants and humanitarian entrants 2003 p223, 'funding should be more tightly linked to specific work output and outcomes rather than to inputs such as rent and staffing'. Using that point as a reason for the formation of the Settlement Grant Policy:

1. Does this mean there going to be a redundancy in the social service sector?
2. What will happen to MRC staff terms and condition?
3. Since 2002 to present time, how many jobs are created by the migrant resource centre each year for Australians.

*Answer:*

1. The gross level of funding available for settlement assistance under the new Settlement Grants Program (SGP) will not decline. Approximately \$30 million will be available in 2006-07. This amount is expected to increase in each of the out-years.

Organisations funded under the SGP will make staffing decisions on the basis of the grants they receive under the SGP and from a range of other sources.

2. Staffing levels and conditions of service will continue to be the responsibility of those organisations.

3. The department does not keep records of the number of staff employed by MRCs/MSAs.