

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 1 November 2005

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(237) Output 2.4: Promoting Benefits of Cultural Diversity

Senator Hurley asked:

According to DIMIA's Annual Report 2003-2004, p.122, members of the Council for Multicultural Australia (CMA) contributed on one occasion to the resolution of local community relations tensions.

- which local communities were involved in this conflict;
- what was their problem;
- how was it resolved by the Council for Multicultural Australia (CMA).

Answer:

1. Members of the Samoan and Indigenous communities in the Brisbane suburb of Acacia Ridge.
2. The problem arose after an Indigenous child playing in the street was disciplined by some Samoan residents. The resulting tensions escalated into a violent melee.
3. The issue was resolved, in part, through a series of meetings between local Indigenous spokespersons, police representatives and CMA members, Associate Professor Boni Robertson and Mick Van Heythuysen. Professor Robertson also arranged a meeting between the then Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs, the Hon. Gary Hardgrave MP, and Indigenous elders.