

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

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

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

### **(238) Output 2.4: Promoting the Benefits of Cultural Diversity**

Senator Hurley asked:

According to DIMIA annual report 2003-2004, p122, due to considerable reporting on continued incidents of vilification and discrimination against Muslim women, a guide to the role of police in Australia was launched in partnership with Australasian Police Multicultural Advisory Bureau.

1. Since its inception what has been its primary function?
2. How many people have made use of this service?
3. What sort of help has been given to victims?

*Answer:*

1. The primary function of the guide is to provide prospective and newly arrived migrants with information and a better understanding of their rights and responsibilities with regard to some legal and policing concepts and processes in Australia.

The guide provides readers with information on the three tiers of Australian law and enforcement; the government, the criminal justice system and the police. More specifically, the guide provides readers with advice on how to interact and what to expect from these institutions.

For example, information is provided on how to report a crime and what crime reduction and prevention programs the police have in place, such as Crime Stoppers, the Safety House program and Neighbourhood Watch.

2. It is not possible to provide an accurate figure for how many people have used the guide. It was made available in eight languages (English, Arabic, Dari, Bosnian, Chinese, Farsi, Somali and Vietnamese) and since its release has been widely distributed. The guide was sent to Migrant Resource Centres, Multicultural Community Councils, advocacy services and all Australian police departments. The guide was also made available on the Australasian Police Multicultural Advisory Bureau website.

The Bureau has advised that the version of the guide available on the internet has had a high number of down loads and the hard copy has been extremely successful and useful.

3. Victim support was not the aim of the guide; however, it contains chapters on:

“Police and You”

How do I report a crime?

Can I prevent a crime?

“Victims of Crime”

Who is a victim of crime?

What are my rights and responsibilities as a victim of crime?

What happens when I report a crime to the police?