

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

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

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

### **(254) Output 3.1: Whole-of-Government Coordination of Policy Development and Service Delivery for Indigenous Australians**

Senator Siewert asked:

What capacity development programs are envisaged or in place to ensure that disadvantaged and remote Indigenous communities have the knowledge and skills to develop, articulate and prioritise their needs and negotiate effective SRAs?

*Answer:*

OIPC is putting in place a range of initiatives to address these issues.

Four Panels of Experts have been established to provide access for communities to essential skills and expertise. Panel members can support communities to develop, articulate and prioritise their needs and feed these into development of SRAs and Regional Partnership Agreements. Panel members are required to work in a way that supports community development, assists to transfer skills and responsibility to local people, build local capacity and help to create long term sustainability.

Another initiative to support communities will be through sourcing people, via a Multi-Use List (MUL), to work on the ground as community facilitators/coordinators. Members of the MUL will work with government and Indigenous communities to:

- link communities and governments;
- coordinate and develop government service delivery;
- support communities and specific groups in identifying their priorities and to negotiate agreements with governments; and
- support new regional representation engagement arrangements.

Members of the MUL will have established links and relationships with Indigenous communities and will be able to complement the more specialised, technical services of the OIPC Panels of Experts.