

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 30 October 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(236) Output 2.1: Settlement Services

Senator Hurley (L&CA 121) asked:

What do the different CSWE levels equate to, who made the decision as to what functional English is and what level it should be at and has it changed over the years?

Answer:

The levels of the Certificates in Spoken and Written English (CSWE) equate to International Second Language Proficiency Rating (ISLPR) and International English Language Testing System (IELTS) levels as follows:

- CSWE I = ISLPR 1 = IELTS 3 to 4
- CSWE II = ISLPR 1+ = IELTS 4
- CSWE III = ISLPR 2 = IELTS 4 to 5

Functional English is defined for the purpose of the *Immigration (Education) Act 1971* as having the same meaning as the *Migration Act 1958*. This definition was included in the *Immigration (Education Act) 1971* through the *Migration Legislation Amendment Act (No 1) 1997*.

The term functional English was inserted into section 4 of the *Migration Act 1958* on 1 January 1993 by section 9 of the *Migration Laws Amendment Act (No. 2) 1992 No. 176*. The meaning of functional English has not been amended since it was inserted on 1 January 1993.