

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 30 October 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(238) Output 2.1: Settlement Services

Senator Hurley asked:

AMEP home tutor scheme:

1. How many students have participated in this part of AMEP since the latest contract began?
2. How many students have exited the home tutor scheme with functional English?
3. How many who used the home tutor scheme withdrew before completing the 510 hours?
4. What are the qualification requirements of the home tutors?
5. How many students on the home tutor scheme have qualified for extra tuition (610 or 910 hours)?

Answer:

The Home Tutor Scheme (HTS) is an informal program. It provides language assistance by trained volunteers, generally on a one-to-one support basis in the client's home. HTS hours are not recorded and there is no assessment of learning outcomes.

HTS participation is important in providing language assistance to a wide range of clients for whom formal tuition may be inappropriate. It provides a means of maintaining language gains for clients who are unable to attend classes temporarily (eg because of childbirth or other family issues) and serves as a bridge to formal tuition for some clients or may supplement low intensity formal tuition. Service providers are also encouraged to also use volunteer tutors to assist clients in the classroom.

HTS is available to the following clients:

- those participating in the HTS only; or
- those enrolled in Distance Learning; or
- those enrolled in classroom tuition (either community or centre-based) of up to 6 hours per week; or
- those enrolled in classroom tuition (either community or centre-based) of up to 5 hours per week and in Distance Learning.

The specific answers to the questions are as follows:

1. 8,237 as at 30 June 2006.
2. There is no formal curriculum for HTS or assessment of learning outcomes.
3. In the period 2003-04 to 2005-06, 2,530 clients (42%) who used the HTS withdrew prior to completion of their 510 hours entitlement.

4. Home tutors are volunteers and are not required to have formal qualifications. However, service providers are required contractually to provide at least 15 hours of training for tutors; guidance to tutors on topics to be covered; and ongoing training and support.

5. There is no relationship between the home tutor scheme and a client's AMEP entitlement. In the period from 2003-04 to 2005-06 the following clients accessed the HTS:

Hour Entitlement	No of Clients
510	6,066
610	2,057
910	114