

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 30 October 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(239) Output 2.1: Settlement Services

Senator Hurley asked:

Andrew Robb announced in October at the AMEP National Conference that the government will be looking at using AMEP as a means to accelerate people into the work force.

1. How did this decision come to fruition?
2. How will this differ to what is meant to be done under the existing IHSS format?
3. What estimated costs have been developed for this programme?
4. Will all AMEP providers be responsible for this?

Answer:

At the AMEP National Conference the Parliamentary Secretary, the Hon Andrew Robb AO MP, announced that:

“With the Minister for Workforce Participation Sharman Stone, I am also looking at the role the Australian Migrant English Program plays in preparing family stream and humanitarian migrants for work.

In the existing program, there are modules which are focussed on employment, but we are looking to see if there are other ways that the programmes can help people start work earlier.”

The Government is still considering options in this regard.