

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

**SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 30 October 2006**

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

### **(240) Output 2.1: Settlement Services**

Senator Hurley asked:

AMEP childcare waiting lists:

1. Is the Department aware of waiting list for AMEP clients requiring childcare? If so, which providers and how many people are waiting?
2. Are all AMEP providers satisfactorily achieving the childcare requirements stipulated by the government's contract? If not, who is not and what are the reasons?
3. Is there a provision in the AMEP contract for crèche-style childcare?

*Answer:*

1. A client's eligibility and requirement for childcare is determined during the initial assessment and registration. If childcare is required, the client is placed on a waiting list until a suitable place is found. Service providers are contractually required to arrange childcare for the under school age children of a client while the client is undertaking classroom tuition. This placement is to be offered within three months of the client registering for tuition. A failure to meet this requirement will result in a contractual breach. Waiting times within the three months are not reportable to DIMA and will vary depending on when the client registers, childcare availability and client childcare preferences.
2. Yes.
3. The contracts require that childcare arrangements meet the relevant State regulations.