

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 20 OCTOBER 2009

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(116) Program 5.1: Settlement Services for Migrants and Refugees

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

The ANAO reported that "DIAC has poorly documented the basis of funding recommendations, including actions taken in response to discussions with the Parliamentary Secretary." In answer to question 86 from the May 2009 Estimates, DIAC committed to fully documenting future conversations. Following this report, can you outline details of any subsequent conversations between DIAC officers and either the Minister or Parliamentary Secretary regarding the allocation of grants.

Answer:

The Department provides formal advice to the Minister through the Parliamentary Secretary on the allocation of grants. There are often conversations between the Minister, the Parliamentary Secretary or their offices with senior officers of the Department about these submissions. As indicated in the response to question 86 in the May 2009 estimates and in response to the ANAO audit, those conversations that impact on the recommended allocations are fully documented.