

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(107) Program 5.1: AMEP / Settlement Services for Migrants and Refugees

Senator Cash (L&CA 111) asked:

What were the outcomes ascribed for the funding to the Australian Nutrition Foundation under the Settlements Grants Program for 2009-10?

This is a program that has been run over a number of years; it is certainly not just in 2009-10. The Australian Nutrition Foundation has previously received a settlement grant in 2008-09 and 2007-08. What is the outcome of the funding, because you have now provided it in subsequent years? Were there identified nutritional deficiencies in people who had arrived in the country?

Answer:

The Australian Nutrition Foundation received \$53,000 in 2009-10, \$50,000 in 2008-09 and \$35,000 in 2007-08 under the Settlement Grants Program.

Because of their experiences, refugees often arrive in Australia with little knowledge of western diets and nutritional foods available here. The Australian Nutrition Foundation proposals aimed to provide practical training and skills to enable these refugees to settle in Australia more effectively. Through information and practical cooking skills developed through the funded projects, refugee women and young men from mainly African countries have developed life skills on understanding and applying healthy and nutritional eating, food handling and hygiene, good oral health, and preparing school lunches, to improve their health as well as that of their families. The programs are aimed at developing skills and providing information rather than as a response to specific nutritional deficiencies.