

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

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

Senator Cash (L&CA 113) asked:

What is the uptake and completion rates of the Adult Migrant English Program?

Answer:

In 2009-10, more than 60 per cent of those migrants eligible to access the Adult Migrant English Program registered in the program. Eligible migrants leaving the AMEP had accessed an average of 369 hours of English language tuition.

Access to the AMEP is voluntary and under the current legislation there is no time limit to complete the 510 hours entitlement. Clients cease tuition in this way in the knowledge that they can return to complete the remaining hours at any time in the future.

From 1 January 2011, changes to the Immigration (Education) Act 1971 will introduce a five year timeframe for the completion of the program.