

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

#### **(359) Program 5.1: AMEP / Settlement Services for Migrants and Refugees**

Senator Cash asked:

The Multicultural Development Association Inc has for the 2009-2010 financial year been granted \$763,475.00 for Orientation to Australia and Community Development.

(a) What were the measures of financial accountability and outcomes for the Multicultural Development Association Inc?

(b) Please detail how this money was spent and on what it was spent.

*Answer:*

(a) The Funding Agreement between the Department of Immigration and Citizenship and the Multicultural Development Association Inc included an Approved Budget, performance monitoring measures and project outcomes as part of approved work program. The Agreement required the organisation to provide an end of year Audited Financial Statement detailing how funds were spent and two written progress reports at 6 and 12 months of each financial year outlining its performance against the Outcomes and Activities set out in the approved work program for the relevant period. In addition, interviews were held between the organisation and the Department's grants manager on progress against the work program.

In 2009-10 the Multicultural Development Association received \$763,475 for two projects. The first project (\$678,475) was a generalist project which achieved the following outcomes:

- 1105 humanitarian clients were assisted through casework and group information sessions to develop life skills to enable them to independently access mainstream support services. Topics included tenancy, family law and culture in Australia, financial budgeting, Centrelink payments, the role of police and assistance with completing documents;
- 133 humanitarian clients were provided with immigration assistance in relation to proposing of family members;
- Forums were held to enable members of African communities to increase their knowledge of family law including issues around domestic violence
- Leadership training was provided to members of the Burundi, Liberian, Togolese and Karen communities to enable them to advocate for their communities;
- Support groups were established for refugee women and men; and

- New communities, such as Karen and Rohingya, were assisted to showcase their culture and to link with mainstream providers, such as police and City Councillors.

The second project (\$85,000) aimed to address the specific settlement needs of humanitarian youth (12-24 years) attending the Milpera State High School in Brisbane. The School provided English language, and settlement services to prepare newly arrived migrant and refugee students for participation in mainstream secondary schools.

This project achieved the following outcomes in 2009-10:

- 132 humanitarian youth were assisted through casework and group information sessions to enable them to transition to mainstream schools with increased knowledge of the school system.
- 12 Sudanese young people received leadership training to enable them to have an active role in their communities on youth related issues; and
- Some African communities were assisted in identifying ways in which the sexual health needs of youth can be addressed.

(b) The Audited Financial Statements from the Multicultural Development Association Inc indicated that:

- the amount of Settlement Grant Program funding of \$678,475 for 2009-10 was spent as follows:

\$476,358.00 Labour (eg salaries, on-costs, training and recruitment)  
 \$ 81,949.00 Project costs (eg travel, management fees, catering and facilitators)  
 \$ 35,622.00 Immigration Assistance (paid to sub-contractor Refugee and Immigration Legal Service Inc.)  
 \$ 84,726.80 Organisational costs (eg facilities, telephone, IT, insurance and accounting)

- the amount of Settlement Grant Program funding of \$85,000 for 2009-10 was spent as follows:

\$ 63,916.64 Labour (eg salaries, on-costs and training)  
 \$ 9,948.09 Project costs (eg travel, management fees)  
 \$ 11,155.00 Organisational costs (eg facilities, telephone, IT, accounting and insurance)