

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES: 17 OCTOBER 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE11/0401) Program 5.1: Settlement Services for Migrants and Refugees

Senator Cash (L&CA 124) asked:

In relation to the AMEP program, provide updated figures in relation to those eligible entrants who have taken up their entitlement and followed it through to completion.

Answer:

In 2010-2011, over 55 000 clients accessed the AMEP. During this period, 2 482 clients attained a Certificate in Spoken and Written English III and reached functional English. Over 7 800 clients had utilised 500 or more hours of English tuition and a further 123 clients exited the program as they had exhausted their entitlement.

For the current program year to 30 September 2011, 6 529 clients enrolled in the AMEP for the first time, and there were 18 000 continuing clients. In the same period, 371 clients attained a Certificate in Spoken and Written English III and reached functional English. Over 2 100 clients utilised 500 or more hours of English tuition and a further 62 clients exited the program as they had exhausted their entitlement.

Access to the AMEP is voluntary and eligible migrants and humanitarian entrants who do not have functional English have five years from their visa commencement date to access their entitlement of up to 510 hours of English tuition.