

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 15 October 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE12/0686) PROGRAM – 5.1: Settlement Services for Migrants and Refugees

Senator Cash (written) asked:

On 7 February 2012, Ministers Bowen and Conroy announced a \$5.1 million three-year trial of virtual English language tuition using the National Broadband Network (NBN) to help new migrants settle into regional communities. This trial was to initially involve up to 200 new migrants and was meant to complement AMEP. Since this trial's announcement: a. how many new migrants have been able to access the service?: b. where and when will the trial be rolled out? c. I understand that this trial is to be offered through self-based learning – is that still the case? If so, how will this be effective especially for new migrants who may not even be literate in their native tongues?

Answer:

- a) The Virtual English Tuition for Migrants trial is not due to commence until the end of 2012.
- b) The first trial participants are expected to commence in Melbourne in December 2012.
- c) Self-paced learning is not being offered as part of the Virtual English Tuition for Migrants trial.