

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 12 February 2007**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

### **(118) Output 2.4: Promoting the Benefits of Cultural Diversity**

Senator Hurley (L&CA 106-107) asked:

In relation to the government's cultural diversity policy and the removal of the term 'multicultural affairs' from the name of the Department, whether the four guiding principles of the Galbally report still apply, including: equality of opportunity and equal access to programmes and services for all; the right of all Australians to maintain their culture without prejudice or disadvantage; the need for special services and programmes for migrants to ensure equality of access and provision; and the principle of full consultation with clients with encouragement of self-help for migrants to become self-reliant as quickly as possible.

*Answer:*

The government's settlement and cultural diversity policy and programmes give effect to the four guiding principles of the Galbally report.

Under the policy, subject to the law, all Australians have the right to express their own culture and beliefs and have a reciprocal obligation to respect the right of others to do the same. The Access and Equity strategy (now renamed 'Accessible Government Services for All') includes a requirement that clients be consulted. Government funding for settlement services recognises the need for specific programmes, based on the principles of self-reliance and participation.