

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2016-2017 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 2.1 Families and Communities

Question No: SQ17-000172

Topic: Settlement Services

Hansard page: Written

Senator Jacinta Collins asked:

In relation to SQ16-000301:

- a) Does the Minister or department see any links between multicultural policy and settlement services and issues of race and racism?
- b) Does the Minister or department see any links between multicultural policy and settlement services and issues of radicalisation?
- c) Has the department provided any briefing to the Minister or Minister's office on:
 - Racism
 - The Racial Discrimination Act
 - Section 18C

Has the Minister has been provided briefing from other department's (for example the Attorney General's department) in relation to 18C, the Racial Discrimination Act or Racism as it pertains to their portfolio responsibilities?

Answer:

- a) The Government's multicultural statement, *Multicultural Australia: United, Strong, Successful* includes a strategic direction focusing on encouraging economic and social participation of new arrivals, including Australia's settlement policies programs. The statement also denounces racial hatred and discrimination as incompatible with Australian society.
- b) *Multicultural Australia: United, Strong, Successful* states that we best reinforce the safety of the Australian community by focusing on what unites Australians and addressing our differences through respect. The Department works closely with the Attorney-General's Department on these matters.
- c) The Department has not provided any briefing on racism, the Racial Discrimination Act or 18C of that document and are not aware of any briefings provided by other departments.