

**Senate Committee: Education and Employment**

**QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017**

**Outcome: Skills and Training**

**Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-001139**

Senator Cameron, Doug provided in writing

***Adult Migrant English Program - separate streams***

**Question**

What is the different between “pre-employment” and “social English”? Does this splitting of the AMEP into two separate streams reflect the intention to fundamentally change the Program and its aims? How will this split affect Program coherence? What is the long-term objective here?

**Answer**

- Please refer to the response provided to SQ16-000932
- The fundamental program aims and coherence will be unaffected by the tuition streams. Both streams will provide context on Australian life and values. The Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) clients will be supported to review their goals and change tuition streams if their needs change.
- The objective of the change to streamed tuition is to increase participation in AMEP. The introduction of the Social English stream recognises that there is a substantial cohort within the migrant community that due to age, health or family circumstances do not need or want formal English language tuition that is linked to an employment outcome. Providing flexibility in tuition for this specific cohort will ensure that more migrants gain the language skills and cultural insights to be confident and independent participants in the Australian community. This in turn can reduce long-term marginalisation and dependence on government services, at high public cost.