

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 9 FEBRUARY 2010

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

#### (107) Output 5.1: AMEP and Settlement Services for Migrants and Refugees

Senator Humphries asked:

- (1) In answer to question 111 following the October Estimates, DIAC provided a table of humanitarian entrants settled in regional areas by calendar year of arrival. Can you update that table with settlements to date?
- (2) Additionally, what is rate of employment of humanitarian entrants settled in regional areas by area?
- (3) What English training programs or other education programs are available to humanitarian entrants settled in regional areas?

*Answer:*

(1) The following table is an update on how many humanitarian entrants have settled in the 15 regional areas across Australia by calendar year of arrival. These figures are current as at 31 December 2009 and capture direct settlement of humanitarian entrants by DIAC and secondary movement numbers into these regional areas.

In all regional areas outlined below settlement of new humanitarian arrivals has taken place. Overall regional settlement has increased with 349 people from 2008 to 2009 and settlement may have occurred in other regional areas resulting from individual choice that is not necessarily reflected below.

Local Government Areas	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Total
Albury (C)	1	5	4	19	35	69	133
Ballarat (C)	18	26	15	34	31	11	135
Cairns (C)	52	84	36	47	33	63	315
Coffs Harbour (C)	37	64	39	69	76	87	372
Gold Coast (C)	24	46	75	87	46	167	445
Greater Geelong (C)	65	85	45	59	126	84	464
Launceston (C)	76	111	70	87	148	131	623
Mount Gambier (C)	0	0	0	41	5	92	138
Murray Bridge (RC)	13	15	29	5	0	15	77
Newcastle (C)	122	142	54	69	47	60	494
Shepparton (C)	42	124	169	127	54	45	561
Toowoomba (C)	149	123	95	93	60	34	554
Townsville (C)	16	33	19	19	26	85	198
Wagga Wagga (C)	42	53	71	62	20	62	310
Wollongong (C)	53	67	65	123	94	145	547
<b>Total</b>	<b>710</b>	<b>978</b>	<b>786</b>	<b>941</b>	<b>801</b>	<b>1150</b>	<b>5366</b>

Note: Figures in the table presented may vary from previous figures supplied due to internal movements.

(2) Humanitarian entrants are selected on the basis of their need and eligibility for protection, rather than their skills and employment prospects.

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) is responsible for maintaining data on employment participation.

As employment is a key indicator of settlement, this Department is currently undertaking a number of research initiatives to improve our understanding of the settlement outcomes of humanitarian entrants, both for first and second generations.

The Department contracted the Refugee Council of Australia to undertake a literature review on factors relating to the economic, civic and social contributions of refugees and humanitarian entrants. One of the findings of the report, released in February 2010, is the positive impact of refugees who have been settled in regional and rural Australia. Successful regional and rural refugee settlement programs have helped plug some population gaps, supply much-needed labour and stimulate economic growth and service delivery. More generally, the young age profile of humanitarian entrants makes a very positive contribution to a labour market in which new retirees now exceed new labour force entrants.

In addition, the Department has contracted the Australian Survey Group to conduct research on the *Settlement Outcomes of New Arrivals*. This quantitative survey analyses the social participation, economic participation, the degree of independence and the personal well-being of humanitarian entrants and refugees in both metropolitan and regional Australia (benchmarked against family and skilled migrants) who have arrived over the last five years. The survey includes questions on labour market participation, and other employment outcomes. Outcomes of the survey are expected in May 2010.

Professor Graeme Hugo from the University of Adelaide is conducting a research project for the Department regarding the *Economic, Social and Civic Contributions of Humanitarian Entrants*. The project is exploring the contributions of people from first and second generation humanitarian backgrounds to Australia's economy and society, including through labour force participation, entrepreneurship, volunteering and other economic, social and civic engagement. One of the project's aims is to assess the extent to which humanitarian settlers' skills are fully utilised, the barriers they face and their mobility within the labour force over time. It is expected to include respondents in metropolitan and some regional areas throughout Australia. Data is currently being collected and outcomes are expected in May 2010.

(3) The Department administers a range of English language and education programs to support refugee and humanitarian entrants settle in regional areas.

The Adult Migrant English Program provides English language tuition for eligible adult migrants and humanitarian entrants who do not have functional English. Eligible migrants have a legislative entitlement to study English for up to 510 hours or until they reach functional English, whichever comes first. Additional tuition is also available through the Special Preparatory Program to humanitarian entrants with low levels of schooling or who have had difficult pre-migration experiences, such as torture and or trauma.

Traineeships in English and Work Readiness – provides traineeships to allow new entrants to continue to learn English while developing knowledge, skills and experience in the Australian workplace.

Employment Pathways Program –assists entrants with the lowest levels of literacy to have the opportunity to learn English in a range of formal and informal settings while at the same time introducing them to Australian workplace culture and practices.

The Australian Government also offers other English language programs such as the Language, Literacy and Numeracy Program and the Workplace English Language and Literacy Program managed by the DEEWR.