

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21-22 MAY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE12/0490) Program 5.1: Settlement Services for Migrants and Refugees

Senator Cash (L&CA 93-94) asked:

With regards to the definition of level one, would a CSWE 1 certificate provide someone with the language skills they would need to negotiate with potential employers? Would a CSWE 1 provide someone with the language skills they would need to negotiate with a banking or financial institution? Again, would a CSWE 1 provide someone with the language skills they would need to be able to communicate with a health professional adequately? Also, when you come out with a CSWE 2 or CSWE 3, what is the level of English you are coming out with in terms of negotiation skills? And regarding the statistics in answer to 0466 from AE12, did the department have a look at what they believe to be the reasons behind such a low level of attainment?

Answer:

The Certificate in Spoken and Written English (CSWE) Level I develops language for clients who have had minimal exposure to English. Clients at this level can understand and convey general meaning in very familiar situations.

The CSWE Level II develops language for learners to support simple everyday transactions and limited social needs. Examples of CSWE Level II learning outcomes may include:

- being able to arrange a service and purchase a product; and
- being able to give and follow spoken instructions.

The CSWE Level III focuses on general English language skills for day-to-day life, for work and for further study. It develops language for learners to support basic social needs, routine situations for everyday commerce, recreation and linguistically undemanding vocation. Examples of learning outcomes may include:

- participate in negotiation at work;
- initiate informal and formal discussions; and
- write essays, emails and letters.

A number of factors may contribute to the client's level of attainment from the program, including age, intensity of learning, previous educational level and practice outside of class.