

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2012-13 Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 335

Topic: Access and Equity

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Di Natale asked:

How does your Department ensure that the Government's Access and Equity Strategy is implemented in its entirety and in relation to all Departmental activities?

Answer:

FaHCSIA continues to improve the way in which its programs and services respond to Australia's cultural, religious and linguistic diversity. FaHCSIA recognises that 'while services may be universally applicable, they may not be equally accessible'. It also acknowledges the 'right of all Australians to equality of treatment and opportunity and the removal of barriers of race, ethnicity, culture, religion, language, gender or place of birth' and the need for all government agencies to work together to overcome these barriers.

FaHCSIA's programs and activities focus on improving the lives of Australians by building personal, family and community capacity, and well-being. Across the areas of Indigenous Australians, seniors, disability and carers, mental health, children, families, women and housing, the Department seeks to maximise economic and social participation, focuses on early intervention as a strategy to assist individuals, families and communities and assists those who are most disadvantaged. Coupled with a focus on social inclusion, these policies and programs serve to enhance FaHCSIA's implementation of the Governments Access and Equity Strategy.

The Department is currently undertaking a request for tender to commission a project to outline how FaHCSIA can, over time, provide appropriate online content (via www.fahcsia.gov.au) to improve communication and social inclusion of CALD audiences.