

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2016-17 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 2.1 Families and Communities

Question No: SQ16-000451

Topic: Settlement and Multicultural Programs

Hansard page: 103

Senator Jacinta Collins asked:

Across different agencies there is always a need to push to make sure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and culturally linguistically diverse communities are included. Even recently with the Health department's national minimum data set it appears that there has been no data requirement for language or ethnicity. Are you looking at that issue? Is it something that you could take up to ensure that we do include those issues in those sorts of datasets?

Answer:

Australian Government programs and services are required to comply with the Multicultural Access and Equity Policy. This policy aims to ensure that programs and services meet the needs of all Australians, regardless of their cultural and linguistic backgrounds.

The policy contains six commitments essential to the effective delivery of government programs and services in a multicultural society: leadership; engagement; performance; capability; responsiveness; and openness. Australian Government departments and agencies are responsible for applying these commitments to their work.

The Department of Social Services is unable to comment on data sets held by other agencies.