

## **Senate Committee: Education and Employment**

### **QUESTION ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018**

#### **Outcome: Skills and Training**

#### **Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-000706**

Senator Pratt, Louise provided in writing.

#### ***Adult Migration English Program (AMEP)***

##### **Question**

Recommendation 15. Of the Australian Citizenship report by Phillip Ruddock and Senator Fierravanti-Wells states:

“In view of the strong emphasis the community places on English language, the Government should improve the Adult Migration English Program (AMEP) and ensure new citizens have adequate (not just basic) language ability, taking into account particular circumstances.”

1. What action has been taken to improve the AMEP?
2. What IELTS level do people who complete AMEP achieve?
3. What does this mean?
  - People can have a chat in the street?
  - Go to the supermarket?
  - Catch the bus?
  - Go to a social event?
  - Get a job of some sort?
4. What proportion of people who do the AMEP would pass IELTS 6.0?
  - Can that be broken down country by country?
5. What is the percentage of people from the AMEP who exit with an ISLPR 2.
  - Can that be broken down country by country?
6. What provisions are there for those people to attain an IELTS of 6.0 as proposed by the new citizenship test?
7. How much would this cost? Where is it in the Budget?
8. How much would it cost to help permanent residents reach IELTS level 6.0?

##### **Answer**

1. The Australian Government implemented a new AMEP business model on 1 July 2017. The key features of the new AMEP business model include: targeted tuition streams, additional client hours, and enhanced English language assessments.
2. IELTS is not used in AMEP. The International Second Language Proficiency Rating (ISLPR) is used in AMEP to assess clients' initial English language proficiency, and the Certificates in Spoken and Written English (CSWE) is the current AMEP curriculum measuring client progress. The maximum level an AMEP client can achieve is CSWE 3 which equates to ISLPR 2.
3. Clients who complete AMEP at the ISLPR 2 level are considered to have reached functional English. At this level, they are expected to be able to have a chat in the street, go to the supermarket, catch the bus, go to a social event and get a job.
4. IELTS is not used in AMEP. Eligibility for AMEP is restricted to clients who have an English language proficiency of ISLPR 2 or lower.

5. The Department of Education and Training cannot provide data on the percentage of people who exit at ISLPR 2. Prior to 1 July 2017 it was not mandatory for service providers to enter a client's level of English proficiency upon exit. In the new AMEP business model which began on 1 July 2017, service providers are required to record clients' English language levels upon exit.
6. IELTS is not used in AMEP. It is not within the legislative scope of AMEP to provide English language tuition to migrants who demonstrate higher than functional English.
7. Questions on the new citizenship test are matters for the Department of Immigration and Border Protection.
8. IELTS is not used in AMEP.