

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 27 February 2017

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE17/091) - Social Cohesion and the Monash University Scanlon Surveys - Internal Product (DIBP)

Senator Burston, Brian (L&CA) written:

2. Regarding the analysis of social impacts, does the Department draw on the Scanlon Surveys of Social Cohesion, conducted by Monash University?
3. Has the Department brought the Scanlon findings to the attention of the Minister? If so, would you make that advice available?
4. Has the Department reported to the Minister that Scanlon Survey publications consistently editorialise in favour of large scale non-discriminatory immigration and the ideology of multiculturalism, which welcomes open-ended ethnic and religious diversity and the social transformation it brings?
5. Has the Minister been advised by the Department that when one looks behind the editorials at the data gathered by the Scanlon team, there is startling evidence of severe declines in social cohesion in neighbourhoods of heavy migrant settlement, especially with Muslims in the mix?
6. Has the Minister been advised that social cohesion consists of such factors as trust, a sense of belonging based in identity, level of volunteering, and feeling safe in one's neighbourhood?
7. Was the Minister informed that the 2012 Scanlon Survey data supported the well-known finding from the United States and other societies that "ethnic diversity has a significant negative impact on social cohesion"?
8. Was the Minister informed that the same finding has been made by other Australian social scientists, including the Hon. Dr. Andrew Leigh, a Shadow Minister in the Federal Parliament, in his previous career as an academic economist?
9. Given that these findings are mainstream social science, has the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection been informed that continuation of Australia's large and unselective immigration policy is on track to severely degrade social cohesion and increase social conflict?

Answer:

2. The Department draws on a wide range of research and analysis, including the annual 'Mapping Social Cohesion—The Scanlon Foundation Surveys' report.
3. The Department does not release policy-related advice that has been provided to ministers.
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6. The Department does not release policy-related advice that has been provided to ministers.

7. The Department does not release policy-related advice that has been provided to ministers.

8. The Department does not release policy-related advice that has been provided to ministers.

9. Australia's migration programme does not discriminate on the basis of race or religion. Questions relating to settlement and integration should be referred to the Department of Social Services.