

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 17 February 2004

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(84) Output 2.3: Australian Citizenship

Senator Kirk (L&C 84) asked for a copy of the document that sets out the reasons for the citizenship promotion campaign.

Answer:

The background to and rationale for the Australian citizenship promotion campaign is set out in the following attached documents:

- *Australian Citizenship for a New Century*. A Report by the Australian Citizenship Council, February 2000 (see: <http://www.citizenship.gov.au/info/report.htm>)
- *Australian Citizenship...A Common Bond*, Government Response to the Report of the Australian Citizenship Council, May 2001 (see: <http://www.citizenship.gov.au/0501report/01.htm>).
- *Communication Strategy for a Proposed Australian Citizenship Promotion Campaign 2001*, Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, December 2000 (attached).

**COMMUNICATION STRATEGY
FOR
A PROPOSED
AUSTRALIAN CITIZENSHIP PROMOTION CAMPAIGN
2001**

DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS
CITIZENSHIP AND LANGUAGE SERVICES BRANCH
CITIZENSHIP POLICY SECTION

December 2000

Background

In February 2000 the report of the Australian Citizenship Council (ACC), *Australian Citizenship for a New Century*, was publicly released. The Government is expected to respond to the Report shortly.

The ACC Report covers contemporary issues in Australian citizenship policy and law and discusses how to promote increased community awareness of the significance of Australian citizenship. It contains 64 recommendations, including encouraging Australians to make more of their Australian citizenship and encouraging more eligible non-citizens to take out Australian citizenship, particularly during the Centenary of Federation Year. A copy of the relevant recommendations is at Attachment A.

The number of applications for grant of Australian citizenship has decreased from a 1990s peak of 109,631 applications in 1996/1997 (representing approximately 132,200 people) to 61,132 applications in 1999/2000 (representing 72,487 people) and the numbers are continuing to decline this financial year.

A communication campaign will be undertaken in 2001 to promote the acquisition of Australian citizenship with a view to arresting the current decline in applications and to enhance the profile and significance of Australian citizenship among Australians.

The primary target audience for the campaign is the some 950,000 overseas-born people in Australia who are residentially eligible to apply for Australian citizenship but who have to date not sought to do so (referred to in this brief as eligible non-citizens). About half of these eligible non-citizens arrived in Australia before 1981, most of whom were European (especially British, Italians and Germans) or New Zealander in origin. Major country of birth groups for more recent arrivals include Malaysians and Chinese.

A recent analysis of the 1996 Census data by the Citizenship Policy Section provides detailed demographic information on the number, place of birth, age, location and

length of residence of eligible non-citizens in Australia. A summary of this information is at Attachment B.

Previous Research

Research on general citizenship and promotional issues has previously been commissioned as part of earlier Australian citizenship promotion campaigns. The developmental research findings for a citizenship promotion in 1994-95 are at Attachment C and an Executive Summary of research findings from a 1988-89 citizenship promotion is at Attachment D.

The research for the 1994-95 campaign found that:

- Overwhelmingly, the principal reason attributed for not becoming a citizen was a consequence of “not getting around to it”.
- Compared to citizenship, permanent residence was seen to bestow equal “real” benefits, and so there was no motivation to take the extra step.
- There was a perception that socially and officially, citizenship was perceived to be a low priority and so lacks intrinsic value, positioning and urgency.
- There were tangible and “felt” losses associated with acquiring Australian citizenship, such as:
 - loss of original citizenship (benefits, freedom of movement)
 - loss of identity (family, culture, religion, origins)
 - loss of self esteem/status (still conscious of migrant disadvantages).
- Aspects of the citizenship process could imply a lack of official interest, as well as raise subconscious barriers to proceeding.
 - Timeframes for citizenship processing were seen to be long, and official knowledge levels were sometimes seen to be low.
 - At that time there was still a presumption that the oath of allegiance was to the Queen. It was also thought among some that the oath conflicted with religious beliefs. (In January 1994, the Oath of Allegiance was replaced by a Pledge of Commitment to Australia and its people).
- While being Australian was seen to carry positive virtues and qualities, these were not seen as conditional upon citizenship.
- The image of being Australian was essentially positive and offered value, but it lacked the individuality to trigger motivation to acquire citizenship.
- The triggers for acquiring Australian citizenship mainly revolved around issues of conscience and reward, certainty and commitment, need and contributing.
- Barriers to acquisition of Australian citizenship included: lack of real benefits (hence no need), inertia, family ties, loss of other citizenship, loss of freedom of movement or benefits elsewhere.

With regard to specific groups, the research found that:

- For permanent residents from the UK and Ireland, the main trigger was a sense of commitment to Australia as their new home. Barriers included the lack of real benefits, the lack of a close knit social life in Australia and the loss (often perceived) of some benefits.
- For New Zealand residents, triggers were primarily employment prospects, marriage/children and gratitude to Australia. But, it was also seen as unnecessary, especially as they often moved between New Zealand and Australia.
- For Germans, the Dutch and Italians, triggers were a sense of pride and commitment to Australia, a sense of obligation and for some the right to vote. Barriers were the lack of real benefits (hence no need), and the loss of heritage and their previous citizenship.
- For Malaysian and Chinese residents, triggers were a commitment to Australia and benefits such as voting and employment prospects. The primary barriers were a lack of English, ties to the homeland, moral values, family responsibilities and the loss of flexibility and previous citizenship.

Current Research

Further research has been commissioned with a view to updating our understanding of eligible non-citizens and their attitudes towards acquiring Australian citizenship, including identifying motivational factors for acquiring Australian citizenship and reasons why eligible non-citizens have not acquired Australian citizenship.

This research will give us a better understanding of community attitudes to Australian citizenship and assist in refining the communication campaign's themes, messages and communication mix.

Aim of the Communication Strategy

The primary aim of the communication strategy is to promote the acquisition of Australian citizenship with a view to arresting the current decline in applications for citizenship.

A secondary aim is to enhance the profile and significance of Australian citizenship among all Australians. This would involve:

- raising awareness of Australian citizenship, its meaning and the values that underpin it;
- communicating that Australian citizenship enables full participation in the community;
- communicating that the Government values Australian citizenship highly.

Communication Objectives

Communication objectives specific to the primary target audience are to:

- Increase positive attitudes towards the acquisition of citizenship among eligible non citizens;
- Increase awareness that the Government is encouraging eligible non-citizens to take out Australian citizenship;
- Maintain or increase the number of eligible non-citizens that seek information about acquiring citizenship;
- Maintain or increase the number of applications for citizenship in order to arrest the current decline in applications.

Communication objectives applicable to the secondary target audience are:

- Placing the issue of Australian citizenship on the public agenda;
- Increasing the salience of Australian citizenship;
- Increasing positive attitudes towards Australian citizenship;
- Increasing awareness that the Government values Australian citizenship;
- Increasing understanding of the responsibilities and privileges of Australian citizenship;
- Increasing recognition that Australian citizenship enables full participation in the social, civic and democratic life of the community.

Target Market/Audience

Eligible non Citizens

In seeking to arrest the current decline in numbers of Australian citizenship applications, the main target audience is the 950,000 permanent residents who meet the residence requirements to take out citizenship but as yet have not done so.

About three-quarters of the pool of potential citizenship applicants are represented by only nine countries of birth, each with their own specific age, location and recency of arrival profiles. The national rate of Australian citizenship amongst those eligible to acquire it is 75%.

The largest group of eligible non-citizens by far are permanent residents from the United Kingdom/Ireland (about 40% of pool) and New Zealand (about 17% of pool). The United Kingdom/Ireland born group is by and large middle aged to old, having arrived in Australia before 1981 and a below average citizenship rate (about 62%). The New Zealand born group is younger, with a fairly even pattern of arrival, and a very low citizenship rate (about 35%).

There is a group of eligible non-citizens who migrated from Europe (specifically from Italy, Germany and the Netherlands) which makes up about 9% of the pool. The people in this group are generally older, with most having arrived in Australia before 1981. Italy, Germany and the Netherlands each have citizenship rates approaching the national norm (about 75%).

By contrast, a group of permanent residents from Asian countries (China and Malaysia), which make up about 7% of the pool, are generally younger with most

having arrived in Australia during the late 1980s and throughout the 1990s. This group displays quite low citizenship rates (about 50%).

Eligible non-citizens from the United States of America (2% of pool) have a relatively even age profile and steady spread of arrival but quite a low citizenship rate (about 51%).

Location of Eligible non-Citizens

Approximately 60% of eligible non-citizens reside in New South Wales (34%) or Victoria (26%). Queensland and Western Australia combined account for a further 29%, with South Australia (8%) and the remaining states and territories making up the balance (about 3%).

Generally, the highest concentrations of eligible non-citizens are in areas of high migrant populations, which means a predominance in urban areas. There are also some instances of extremely large concentrations in specific LGAs, such as the Gold Coast (27,416) in Queensland, Wanneroo (18,093) in Western Australia and Blacktown (13,292) in New South Wales. Both New South Wales and Victoria have a large number of LGAs with slightly smaller though still relatively high numbers of eligible non-citizens of about 10,000.

Secondary Target Audiences

The secondary target audience is Australian citizens, both Australian born and overseas born.

Special Audiences

As a significant proportion of the primary target audience (around 40%) is from a non English speaking background, promotion activities specifically targeting such people will be necessary. To this end a specialist NESB communication consultant will be engaged to develop and implement communication strategies specifically designed to reach the NESB communities in the campaign's target audiences. These strategies will complement the campaign's mainstream advertising and public relations activities.

Key Messages

Acquiring Citizenship - Eligible non-citizens

As the 1994-95 research previously referred to shows, there are varying motivations and barriers facing the primary target group in seeking Australian citizenship, though common themes do emerge. These include:

- apathy;
- sometimes an incorrect belief that applicants might lose their former citizenship upon acquisition of Australian citizenship;
- ties to homeland; and

- no perceived tangible benefits (eg some British and New Zealand permanent residents who were on the electoral roll prior to 25 January 1984 and are already eligible to vote).

The messages for the primary target audience are:

- the Government values Australian citizenship highly and encourages eligible non citizens to take out citizenship;
- Citizenship is a symbol of commitment to Australia and of formal membership of the Australian community;
- citizenship is about belonging to and being a fully participating member of the community as it gives you the opportunity to contribute to and shape Australia's future through
 - voting,
 - formally identifying with Australia,
 - participating on a jury,
 - seeking public employment and public office;
- the Centenary of Federation year is an appropriate and significant time during which to take out citizenship
 - it is a significant and national occasion and a good time to reflect on what Australian citizenship means to you
 - Federation is about people coming together to build a nation;
- call 131 880 for more information about becoming a citizen.

Depending on the country of birth of the eligible non-citizen, specific messages would also need to be communicated, such as:

- taking out Australian citizenship does not mean that the applicant would lose their former citizenship (an issue for some Italians and British permanent residents);
- applying for citizenship is a simple process (an issue for a number of countries, including the Italians, Irish, Vietnamese, Germans).

Enhancing the Profile and Significance of Citizenship – Australian Citizens

- Being a citizen means:
 - working with all Australians to build a strong, unified and harmonious nation,
 - valuing and accepting diversity in the community,
- Australian citizenship allows full participation in the community, by providing opportunities:
 - to shape the nation (through exercising your right to vote and sitting for public office);
 - to represent the country (in sport, by possessing an Australian passport, by being a public official);
 - for children born overseas to Australian citizen parents to become Australian citizens (citizenship by descent);
 - to defend the country (by serving in the armed forces).

The findings of the current research will be used to better inform these messages and develop additional secondary messages that may be required to address motivational barriers within the target audiences.

In delivering the messages, the concerns and sensitivities of ATSI peoples will need to be taken into account.

The Government believes that the decision to acquire Australian citizenship should be taken voluntarily and be indicative of a clear commitment to Australia rather than a step taken to obtain access to a particular benefit. The campaign messages should not focus on the material benefits of Australian citizenship, such as the right to vote and to obtain an Australian passport, as compared to those of permanent residents.

The Communication Mix

Previous research indicates that different country of birth groups obtain their information in culturally diverse ways. Other major factors influencing the choice of communication methods are the campaign's relatively modest budget on the one hand, and on the other the synergies created and opportunities afforded by the Centenary of Federation.

As such, the main communication methods to be used to deliver messages during the campaign include:

- advertising through mainstream media (television and supporting print suitable for magazines);
- promotional events, often in conjunction with Centenary of Federation events and other agencies;
- direct messages from the Minister and Department;
- messages directed at community groups such as Rotary, Lions and Apex;
- distribution of promotional material through schools;
- distribution of promotional material through state and local governments (especially at the time of affirmation ceremonies);
- direct messages and distribution of promotional material through the DIMA website, and some mainstream commercial and community websites;
- investigating opportunities for inexpensive or free air time on the ABC, for example via the playing of a documentary on the Australian Citizenship experience.

The proposed communication activities targeting NESB communities include:

- advertising through community and ethnic print media and possibly community and SBS television;
- direct messages from the Minister and Department, at appropriate community functions;
- advertising and promotion through community and ethnic networks and events,
- community and ethnic radio;
- distribution of promotional material through Migrant Resources Centres (MRCs), and DIMA's Community Liaison Officer (CLO) network;

- investigating opportunities for inexpensive or free air time on SBS, for example via the playing of a documentary on the Australian Citizenship experience.

In addition, the NESB communication expert will provide advice on the most effective and appropriate means of communicating with the NESB audiences.

Issues Management Contingencies

A Steering Committee has been established to oversight DIMA's development of the promotion campaign and comprises:

- Assistant Secretary, Citizenship and Language Services Branch
- Directors, Citizenship Policy and Citizenship Services Sections
- Director, Public Affairs
- Representatives from NSW and Victoria State Offices
- A representative from the Multicultural Affairs Branch.

This Steering Committee will provide high level advice and direction setting for the project, as well as overall coordination. At the local level, State and Territory Directors, Citizenship Output Managers, and Community Liaison Officers will be the first point of call for issues as they arise; in Central Office, queries will be directed to Assistant Secretary, Citizenship and Language Services Branch, and/or Director, Citizenship Policy Section. Any media enquiries will in the first instance be directed to the Public Affairs Section.

First points of contact will receive ongoing briefing of issues as the campaign unfolds.

Need for Communication Consultants

Research Consultant

A research consultant will be used to:

- update existing research on community attitudes to Australian citizenship, and refine the key messages and communication mix to be used during the campaign;
- concept test advertising proposals; and
- track the campaign and evaluate the campaign's outcomes.

Advertising Consultant

It is intended that an advertising consultant would be used to develop the campaign's theme and to help spread the main message to the primary target audience, using mainstream television and print media as the principal means of distribution.

Public Relations Consultant

A public relations consultant will assist with refining the communication strategy and the development and implementation of a range of initiatives to:

- provide a context and support for the campaign's main messages among both the primary and secondary target audiences;
- help spread the message of acquisition of Australian citizenship to the campaign's primary target audience.

NESB Communication Consultant

A NESB communication consultant will develop and implement a communication strategy for people in the campaign's target audiences from non-English speaking backgrounds. The strategy and implementation will complement the activities undertaken by the specialist advertising and public relations consultants.

One of the main tasks for the advertising, public relations and NESB communication consultants will be to advise how the campaign can best be targeted for maximum effect given the limited resources available.

Research and Evaluation

As referred to in the Background section of this brief, there has been extensive quantitative and qualitative research carried out both in-house and externally on the demographic profile of the main target audience and attitudes to Australian citizenship. Additional qualitative research has been commissioned, and it is expected that this will update and refine DIMA's understanding of the relevant issues.

Concept testing research will be undertaken to refine the creative and evaluation research will be undertaken to ensure the campaign's objectives are met.

Budget

The indicative budget for the campaign is approximately \$2.7M.

Timeframes

Planning and recruitment of consultants will take place between November 2000 and January 2001. Advertising and Public Relations production will occur over February 2001, with the campaign proper commencing in March 2001. During this recruitment and early production period, the Department will continue its program of raising awareness of Australian citizenship within the Australian community via ongoing information dissemination, affirmation ceremonies and direct messages on citizenship.

The formal campaign is expected to end in September 2001. However, it is expected that there will be some continuing activity thereafter.

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ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 17 February 2004

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(85) Output 2.3: Australian Citizenship

Senator Kirk (L&C 84) asked:

(a) Are those people who present a certificate of completion from the AMEP citizenship course accepted at their citizenship interview as meeting the aspects of the Citizenship Act requirements?

(b) Does everyone who completes the AMEP citizenship course receive a certificate of completion?

Answer:

(a) An applicant for Australian citizenship is assessed as having “an adequate knowledge of the responsibilities and privileges of Australian citizenship” (s13(1)(h) of the Australian Citizenship Act 1948 refers), if they can produce the “AMEP Australian Citizenship Responsibilities and Privileges Record” at interview.

(b) It is a contractual requirement that Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) service providers issue the “AMEP Australian Citizenship Responsibilities and Privileges Record” to all those who have successfully completed the AMEP citizenship course.

The course is known as “Let’s participate: A course in Australian Citizenship.” The course involves about 20 hours of study. The course covers many aspects of Australia and the Australian way of life, as well as how to become an Australian citizen. Topics include:

- the values and principles of Australian society;
- Australian geography;
- national symbols and emblems;
- multiculturalism and reconciliation;
- Australia’s parliamentary system of government;
- the responsibilities and privileges of being an Australian citizen;
- Australian law; and
- how to become an Australian citizen.

To successfully complete the course a person must attend at least 75 per cent of the classes, including all the classes covering the part of the course dealing with the responsibilities and privileges of Australian citizenship.

Details of the course are included in the DIMIA brochure “Becoming an Australian Citizen – how the AMEP can help”. A copy of this brochure is attached.

AND WHAT WILL YOU LEARN ABOUT?

The course covers many aspects of Australia and the Australian way of life, as well as how to become an Australian citizen. Some of the topics you'll learn about include:

- the values and principles of Australian society;
- Australian geography;
- national symbols and emblems;
- multiculturalism and reconciliation;
- Australia's parliamentary system of government;
- the responsibilities and privileges of being an Australian citizen;
- Australian law; and
- how to become an Australian citizen.

IS THE COURSE COMPULSORY?

No. It is up to you to decide whether you wish to participate in the course. If you're interested in becoming an Australian citizen, participating in the course will make that process simpler for you. And remember, even if you don't want to become an Australian citizen at this stage, taking the course is a great opportunity to learn more about your new country.

Also, both the "AMEP Australian Citizenship Responsibilities and Privileges Record" and the "AMEP Australian Citizenship English Language Record" remain valid indefinitely. So even if you don't apply for citizenship as soon as you receive them,

they'll still be valid when you do decide to proceed — all you need to do is show the Records to the interviewing officer and you won't have to be tested on these aspects at the interview.

If you don't want to or can't do the course, you can still apply for Australian Citizenship and be tested on your knowledge of English and of the responsibilities and privileges at your citizenship interview, in the usual way.

HOW DO YOU ENROL IN THE COURSE?

Ask your AMEP service provider for details of when the next AMEP Citizenship Course will be run in a centre near you. If you aren't already enrolled in the AMEP and want to find out if you're eligible, you can contact your local AMEP service provider, visit the AMEP website at www.immi.gov.au/amep, or telephone the DIMIA enquiry line on 131 881 (local call cost from anywhere in Australia). There is no cost involved.



Australian Government

Department of Immigration and
Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs

BECOMING AN AUSTRALIAN CITIZEN



How the AMEP can help



AMEP

Adult Migrant English Program
An Australian Government Initiative

AUSTRALIAN CITIZENSHIP AND THE AMEP

Did you know that studying in the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) can help you become an Australian Citizen? You'll still have to go through the normal application process and meet the usual eligibility requirements, but your citizenship interview should be much easier. Here's how it works...

LEARNING ENGLISH

The Australian Citizenship Act requires that applicants for Australian Citizenship who are under the age of 50 must possess a basic knowledge of the English language. This is usually tested at the citizenship interview.

But if you have:

- participated in the AMEP for 300 actual hours;
 - been awarded the Certificate in Spoken and Written English (CSWE) Level II or above; or
 - achieved functional English;
- you won't have to have your knowledge of English assessed at your citizenship interview.

Instead, your AMEP Service Provider will give you an "AMEP Australian Citizenship English Language Record". When you go to the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA) for your interview, you will show this Record to the person interviewing you and you won't need to have your English tested.

LEARNING ABOUT AUSTRALIAN CITIZENSHIP

The Australian Citizenship Act also requires that applicants for Australian citizenship who are under 60 years of age must have an adequate knowledge of the responsibilities and privileges of being an Australian citizen. This knowledge is usually tested at the citizenship interview.



All AMEP service providers offer a course in which you can learn about becoming an Australian citizen. It's called *Let's participate: A course in Australian Citizenship*. If you successfully complete this course your AMEP provider will give you an "AMEP Australian Citizenship Responsibilities and Privileges Record". When you go to DIMIA for your interview, you will show this Record to the person interviewing you and you won't need to have your understanding of the responsibilities and privileges of Australian citizenship tested at interview.

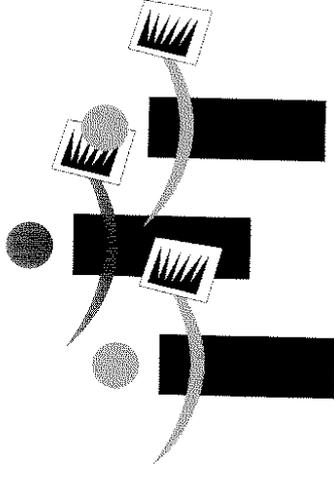
MORE ABOUT THE COURSE

The course is available at all major teaching centres and will be offered as part of your 510 hour AMEP entitlement. Most providers offer the course at least once per semester at each level. It is available at the CSWE I, II and III levels so no matter what your level of English, you'll be able to take this course!

The course involves about 20 hours of study.

To successfully complete the course you must attend at least 75 per cent of all the classes, including all the classes covering Unit 4 which is the part of the course dealing with the responsibilities and privileges of Australian citizenship. If you miss a class, your teacher might be able to give you homework to help you catch up.

When you start the course you will be given a workbook which you can keep. There are also videos, tapes and CD ROMS to help you learn about Australia and Australians. Some of the other course materials might be available in your own language to help you better understand the important issues you will be learning about. There are no tests involved in the course.



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IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(86) Output 3.1: Indigenous Policy

Senator Crossin (L&C 86) asked:

Provide the total amount of funding for the counsellor and the counsellor support training in the Department of Health and Ageing? Please confirm that they were given \$33 million by June 2002 and \$2.4 million was rephased into the 2002-03 and 2003-04 financial years.

Answer:

The Department of Health and Ageing has provided the following answer to the Senator's question:

"In 1998-99 the (then) Department of Health and Aged Care (DH&A) received \$38.9m to be spent over a four year period for Bringing Them Home (BTH) Counsellors and education and training initiatives. Of this \$17m has been allocated to education and training initiatives and \$16m to BTH Counsellors. The remaining \$5.9m has been provided for family and parenting initiatives.

In October 2000, the Department agreed with the Department of Family and Community Services (FACS) that family and parenting support would be administered by FACS, and \$3.5m of the \$5.9m for the family and parenting initiatives was transferred from DH&A to FACS.

In February 2001, the Department of Finance approved a rephasing of \$3.6m from the 2000-01 allocation into 2001-02, and \$3.6m into 2002-03, extending the expenditure of the original BTH allocation over a period of five years."

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IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(87) Output 3.1: Indigenous Policy

Senator Crossin (L&C 87) asked:

How much was expended by the Department of Family and Community Services in respect of the parenting and family support services this financial year?

Answer:

The Department of Family and Community Services has provided the following answer to the Senator's question:

"Expenditure on the Indigenous Parenting and Family Well-Being (IP&FWB) program this financial year is expected to be \$1.87 million."

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IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(88) Output 3.1: Indigenous Policy

Senator Crossin (L&C 102) asked:

In relation to the projects for Wadeye, who is going to be responsible for building the new purpose built building for the construction industry training? Will it go to tender?

Answer:

The funding agreement for the construction of the pre cast factory at Wadeye will rest with the Thamarrurr Regional Council who will manage the project.

The construction of the factory will allow for the employment and training of local indigenous people which is one of the priorities agreed by the Australian and NT governments and Thamarrurr under the COAG trial.

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IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(89) Output 3.1: Indigenous Policy

Senator Crossin (L&C 103) asked:

How many jobs for Indigenous people have been created since the Wadeye trial started?

Answer:

Approximately 20 new jobs have been created to date in a variety of areas since the beginning of the Wadeye COAG trial. These include the employment of local people at the school, with the Women's Association through the Family Program, and through the Thamarrurr Regional Council's administration and day to day support for the trial processes.

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IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(90) Output 3.1: Indigenous Policy

Senator O'Brien (L&C 103) asked for a list of the outcomes at each of the trial sites to date.

Answer:

Most trials are still in early stages. In the initial period activities have centred on:

- Establishing appropriate frameworks to enable governments to work more effectively with the community, at both the Commonwealth and Commonwealth/State levels; and
- Building community capacity and governance structures to enable them to participate effectively in the trials.

There are already encouraging signs of initial positive outcomes in a number of sites:

Cape York

- The Australian and Queensland Governments support a number of key regional strategies developed by Cape York leaders, including the Cape York Institute for Policy and Leadership and the Weipa Multi Purpose Facility. These are being implemented through partnerships between both levels of government and indigenous people and are aimed at supporting long term solutions through addressing health issues including substance abuse, education and economic development and home and community environment;
- Funding from the Flexible Funding Pool together with funding from two other Australian Government agencies has been matched with funding from the Queensland Government to support Cape York Partnerships organisation in its work with Cape York communities. This focuses on issues such as substance abuse and alcohol management, money management and innovative education strategies for children in school.

Wadeye

- The trial is supporting new governance arrangements, namely the Thamarrurr Regional Council, which has been put in place by the local Indigenous clan leaders. Members of the Thamarrurr Regional Council and representatives of the Australian and NT Governments have formed a tripartite committee to work together to tackle some of the issues confronting Wadeye under the banner of 'give every kid a chance' and 'local jobs for local people'. This is the first time that governments and this community have worked in this way and is one model of the shared responsibility approach;
- Both governments have provided resources to support the development of the local construction industry, responding to priorities agreed under the Wadeye

Shared Responsibility Agreement. It will provide training and employment opportunities for local residents through a more viable and sustainable local construction industry (by, for example, allowing all year round building activity);

- Both governments have supported the women's group working with families and children;
- There are more children attending school and local people hold senior positions in the school; the community has implemented a 'no school no pool' rule to encourage children to attend the school.

East Kimberley

- Key priorities here are addressing substance abuse and community safety, activities for children, young people and family support, improved health services, housing and infrastructure.
- A range of capacity building activities have been resourced, including the formation of a Regional Reference Group, comprising Indigenous leaders from each of the communities in the region and representatives from both the Australian and WA Governments and the Halls Creek Shire Council. Again this is the first time that such a decision making forum has existed in this region.
- An interim regional resource centre for use by the reference group and communities has been established providing for the first time a meeting and office space, a telecentre and the visitors' accommodation.

Murdi Paaki

- Community representatives and the Australian and NSW Governments have agreed to work towards improving education outcomes and strengthening families and local governance arrangements.
- Both governments have contributed support for Community Working Parties which operate in all 16 Aboriginal communities across the region and are the primary mechanism for communities' engagement and participation in the trial process, including negotiating local shared responsibility agreements.

Shepparton

- An Aboriginal Community Facilitation Group has been established bringing together for the first time a range of Indigenous community groups in Shepparton to work in partnership with the Australian, State and local governments. The key priorities for working together include employment, education and strengthening families.
- Indigenous employment outcomes have improved significantly, with 37 people placed in employment.

AP Lands

- Work is progressing on implementing the regional stores policy developed by local communities to tackle issues such as the availability of healthy food in stores, the cost of food, education about nutrition and expanding training and job opportunities for local people.

- The Australian and State government, the community and ATSIC have established a joint high level group to provide the overall direction to the trial. As in a number of other trial sites this is the first time such a partnership forum has been formed in this region.

Tasmania and the ACT

These trials are still in early stages of development.

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(91) Output 3.1: Indigenous Policy

Senator O'Brien (L&C 109) asked:

In relation to members of the ATSIC review panel, provide the per diem rate for each member and the number of days that were billed.

Answer:

Per diem rate:

ADR Solutions \$2000 per day excluding GST

Jackie Huggins \$1500 per day excluding GST

Bob Collins \$1500 per day excluding GST

As at 17 February 2004:

ADR Solutions 137.5 days

Jackie Huggins 77 days

Bob Collins 54 days

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IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(92) Output 3.1: Indigenous Policy

Senator Crossin (L&C 114-115) asked:

Was a company search done on all the companies listed in Mr Hannaford's letter and who conducted the search?

Answer:

Yes. The Australian Securities and Investments Commission national names register of companies was searched in relation to the companies mentioned in Mr Hannaford's letter. The search was undertaken by the Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs.

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 17 February 2004

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(93) Output: Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

Senator O'Brien (L&C 99) asked:

What proportion of the digitisation task will the \$300,000 cover?

Answer:

AIATSIS has budgeted to spend \$543,000 on digitisation in 2003-04, of which \$310,000 was provided by ATSIIS and the balance from internal resources. This will allow around 1% of our collections to be digitised.

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 17 February 2004

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(94) Output: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services

Senator Crossin (L&C 86) asked:

How much funding has been allocated to each Link-up organisation from 2001-02 to the present?

Answer:

The funding allocated to each Link Up organisation from 2001-02 to the present is identified below.

Effective Family Tracing and Reunion funding distribution by Link Up Service, 2001-02 to 2003-04 (\$)				
Link Up Service	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	TOTAL
Link Up (NSW) Aboriginal Corporation	489,115	347,825	361,536	1,198,476
Karu Aboriginal Child Care Agency (NT Top End)	269,487	313,489	289,500	872,476
Central Australia Stolen Generations & Families Aboriginal Corporation (NT Central)	381,794	366,155	370,000	1,117,949
Link Up (QLD) Aboriginal Corporation	759,030	737,549	739,030	2,235,609
Nunukuwarrin Yunti of South Australia	442,872	412,797	425,871	1,281,540
Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre	139,650	139,650	134,250	413,550
Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency	348,741	276,741	293,332	918,814
WA Department of Health - Office of Aboriginal Health	894,058	785,458	785,458	2,464,974
TOTAL	3,724,747	3,379,664	3,398,977	10,503,388

ATSIS also funds the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies – Family History Unit to undertake additional family tracing services for the Link Up Services and members of the Stolen generations. The funding provided since 2001-02 is

identified below.

Effective Family Tracing and Reunion funding distribution to AIATSIS, 2001-02 to 2003-04 (\$)				
	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	TOTAL
AIATSIS Family History Unit	206,875	594,518	242,000	1,043,393