

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 February 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(88) Output 2.1: Settlement Services

Senator Hurley asked:

Page 178 of DIMA annual report states that 84 percent of people assisted under IHSS requested an interpreter due to low levels of English education.

- 2004-2005 how many of the new arrivals enter university or TAFE and how many are working?

Answer:

The Department does not maintain statistics on the number of migrants, refugees or humanitarian entrants who undertake study at university or TAFE, or who commence employment.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics released a publication in November 2004 entitled 'Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Migrants'. The publication presents information about migrants who have arrived in Australia since 1984, and found that the 66 per cent of migrants were employed, with an unemployment rate of 5.6 per cent. The unemployment rate of humanitarian entrants surveyed was 10.5 per cent, and the participation rate was 58.4 per cent.