

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 FEBRUARY 2008

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(74) Output 2.1: Settlement Services

Senator Ellison asked:

Will the department be heading or has it provided input into new programs, to assist migrants to overcome disadvantages and barriers to workforce participation?

Answer:

The Department acknowledges the need for migrants and humanitarian entrants to be assisted to gain employment and is reviewing the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) to reflect a greater focus on English for employment purposes. The review of the AMEP is expected to be completed by August 2008.

The Department has an ongoing relationship with the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations to raise awareness of the needs of migrants and humanitarian entrants in terms of employment support.

The Minister for Employment Participation is currently conducting a review of employment services. The Parliamentary Secretary for Multicultural Affairs and Settlement Services, the Hon Laurie Ferguson MP, has recently provided input into this review on the barriers to workforce participation faced by migrants and humanitarian entrants and potential strategies to overcome these.