

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

**ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 FEBRUARY 2008**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

### **(88) Output 2.1: Settlement Services**

Senator Ellison asked:

Is the Government considering expanding the availability of fee free interpreter services, to deliver culturally appropriate health services and health education messages in languages other than English?

*Answer:*

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) has a range of language services in place to assist non-English speaking permanent residents and citizens to access services, including health services.

Under the *Accessible Government Services for All* framework, it is the responsibility of Commonwealth and State/Territory government health agencies to ensure that health services and health education are accessible to all clients, taking into account cultural and linguistic needs. This includes the provision of funding to provide access to language services for non-English speaking clients where required.