

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 24 FEBRUARY 2009

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(26) Output 2.1: Settlement Services

Senator Fierravanti-Wells (L&CA 77-78) asked:

I would be interested in where services or particular resources that have been used in the department are targeted at increasing English proficiency especially in relation to vocational areas. I think you will understand that I would like to see the picture of what you are doing that is specifically targeted in those areas.

Answer:

The Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) is a national settlement program which provides English language tuition for eligible migrants and humanitarian entrants at more than 250 locations around Australia.

AMEP clients are very diverse in their cultural and linguistic backgrounds, their prior experience of formal education, their migration experience and their age. English language tuition is therefore provided flexibly and in a way that is sensitive to the needs of differing client groups.

The program design, combining English language tuition with practical subject matter, introduces clients to life in Australia while providing pathways to various settlement outcomes, including social inclusion and contribution, future study and employment training.

Examples of topics taught in the AMEP include parenting, health, hygiene, shopping, emergencies, childbirth, food, transport, law and order, Australian culture and government, communication skills, further education and training, careers and working in Australia.

In the 2008-09 Budget, the Government announced additional funding of \$49.2m over four years for the AMEP to implement the Employment Pathways and Traineeships in English and Work Readiness programs (\$40m Employment Pathways; \$9.2m Traineeships). Pilots of the new programs commenced in October 2008. Under these programs, clients learn English while gaining familiarity with workplace situations, occupational health and safety, employment preparation, Australian workplace culture and practices.