

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 24 FEBRUARY 2009

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(27) Output 2.1: Settlement Services

Senator Fierravanti-Wells (L&CA78) asked:

If in doing so you have built up basic statistical data in relation to levels of proficiency not just on engaging in employment and new arrivals that they go on to employment but general statistics on English proficiency that you could provide?

Answer:

The AMEP uses the Certificates in Spoken and Written English (CSWE), a competency-based national curriculum and assessment framework, to measure English proficiency. CSWE consists of Level 1 (beginners), Level 2 (post-beginners) and Level 3 (intermediate).

English language outcomes are strongly influenced by factors such as the client's language skills on entry to the program, the number of hours of tuition received, the client's age and the level of education the client had before coming to Australia.

On exit from the AMEP, clients who achieve the required competency for a particular level receive a certificate and those who complete modules within levels receive records of achievement.

Of all exiting clients in 2007-08, 21.3 per cent attained certification at CSWE Level 3, 20.8 per cent at Level 2 and 41 per cent at Level 1. Certificates of achievement were awarded to 16 per cent.

Further statistical information on English proficiency in the Australian population is available from the Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in 2006 and early 2007. The summary results of the survey are available from <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/4228.0>.