

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 FEBRUARY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(348) Program 6.1: Multicultural and Citizenship Services

Senator Cash asked:

An additional \$100,000.00 was allocated to Mirrabooka Multicultural Centre – Has this been expended? If so what did it deliver?

Answer:

There was no additional funding provided to the project through the 2010-11 Portfolio Additional Estimates process.

In March 2008 the Government approved funding of \$1m for the building of a multicultural centre in Mirrabooka, Western Australia and full funding was provided in the 2009-10 budget. Estimates of work to deliver the project were determined at \$1.64 million, some \$640 000 more than the funding provided in the 2008-09 Budget. Given the increased cost, the Government allocated a further \$0.64 million in 2010-11 for work on the proposed redevelopment, bringing the total funding commitment to the Mirrabooka Multicultural Centre to \$1.64 million. The increase of \$0.640 million was offset through a transfer of funds from another DIAC program, *Grants for Community Settlement Services (CSS)*.

Payments will be made to the City of Stirling (CoS) in the following instalments based on agreed milestones:

\$1 million in 2010-11, \$220 000 in 2011-12 and \$420 000 in 2012-13. The \$1m in the 2010-11 budget is a rollover of unused funds in 2009-10.

The Department sought rephasing of the funds as part of the 2010-11 Additional Estimates process. The other rephasing is to align the funding with the timing of expenditure in the contract. The total budget remains unchanged. The funding agreement with the City of Stirling (CoS) was signed on 3 September 2010. The first payment of \$1 million (plus \$100,000 GST) has been made and the CoS has commenced procurement activities relevant to the project.