

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 23 May 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(278) Output 2.2: Translating and Interpreting Services

Senator Hurley (L&C 57) asked:

What role do the NAATI regional panels perform?

Answer:

NAATI provided the Department with the following response:

“The published role and functions of RACS are as follows:

Role of the Regional Advisory Committee

The Regional Advisory Committees (RACs) are advisory committees to the Board of Directors and work to deliver the NAATI mission *to set and maintain high national standards in Translating and Interpreting to enable the existence of a pool of accredited translators and interpreters responsive to the changing needs and demography of the Australian culturally and linguistically diverse society.*

The Regional Advisory Committees have five key roles:

- a) **to advise** the NAATI Board on matters including:
 - translating and interpreting (T & I) standards issues in the relevant state or territory;
 - the specific T & I needs of the state and territory and any particular regional variations;
 - T & I professional issues in the relevant state or territory; and
 - other issues identified by the NAATI Board.
- b) **to advise** the NAATI Board, as requested, about proposed developments or policy changes being considered by the Board;
- c) **to assist NAATI in the promotion** of general community awareness of the NAATI accreditation system and the value and appropriate use of accredited practitioners;
- d) **to facilitate** the exchange of information among the State or Territory networks of practising professionals, T & I educators, and providers of language services about developments in the T & I industry;
- e) **to assist the NAATI Board** in its periodic consultations with industry stakeholders.

Functions of the Regional Advisory Committee

In carrying out its role, the primary functions of the Regional Advisory Committees are to:

- a) Identify local issues and needs and provide advice in relation to them to the NAATI Board;
- b) Identify professional issues which occur in the relevant State/Territory and inform the Board of them together with providing advice on how NAATI might address them;
- c) Develop RAC responses to various NAATI proposals, developments, initiatives or policy changes when requested by the Board;
- d) Facilitate general community awareness of NAATI's role and function within the T & I industry and contribute to the growth in this awareness both individually through the development of networks and collectively by assisting with NAATI promotional activities;
- e) Carry out special projects to achieve specified NAATI business outcomes as requested by the Board; and
- f) Together with NAATI Board and Executive representatives, participate in State and Territory based consultative meetings with industry stakeholders including NAATI Members, funders, AUSIT, service providers, educators and community associations.”