

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 29 MAY 2008

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(59) Output 2.1: Settlement Services

Senator Ellison (L&CA 15-16) asked:

- (1) Why is the Child Migrants Trust winding up on 30 June 2008?
- (2) Is it possible to make a grant outside the budget process?

Answer:

- (1) The Child Migrants Trust (the Trust) is an independent organisation that receives funding from a range of agencies. The Australian Government commenced funding the Trust to provide family tracing and counselling services in 2002 through a three-year grants arrangement. This funding was extended for an additional three years in 2005 and is due to cease on 30 June 2008.
- (2) Yes. Budget operating rules approved by Cabinet require new policies to be considered in the annual budget context. Matters may be considered outside the annual budget context if they are urgent and have been approved by the Prime Minister to come forward.