QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 1 November 2005

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(191) Output: 2.1 Settlement Services

Senator Hurley asked:

According to the DIMIA Annual Report 2003-2004, p.133, a program of independent audits of CSSS grants commenced in May 2004 and 10 funded organisations were reviewed.

- What was the outcome of the review?
- Are there any documents to report the results?

Answer:

Ernst and Young conducted a series of rolling audits on the behalf of the department of organisations funded under the Community Settlement Services Scheme (CSSS). The first ten audits were conducted in May and June 2004 in Western Australia, South Australia and New South Wales. A further 15 audits were conducted in August, September and October 2004 in Victoria, Tasmania and Queensland.

Ernst and Young prepared reports on each set of audits for DIMIA internal use.

The reports identified a number of common performance and financial issues. They made a number of recommendations relating to service delivery, financial reporting, work programs, standards of evidence and better practice opportunities.