

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 1 November 2005

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(198) Output 2.1: Settlement Services

Senator Hurley asked:

According to the response from the frequently asked questions on the settlement grant policy on the DIMIA website, page 26, the criteria for application is different from the recommendation of the settlement grant discussion paper. Why is the criteria for application from the discussion paper been disregarded and what are the new criteria's for the grant application process.

Answer:

A Discussion Paper on the Settlement Grants Program (SGP) was issued in April 2005. Using the Discussion Paper as a focal point, a national public consultation process was undertaken which sought feedback on the new program.

The final Settlement Grants Policy Paper, which was issued in September 2005, reflected some refinements to the policy settings in response to community feedback provided during the consultations. This document represents the high level policy parameters for the SGP.

The Applicant Information Package has been developed to assist organisations applying for funding under the SGP. The selection criteria outlined in the SGP Policy Paper and Applicant Information Package is consistent.

The SGP selection criteria are attached:

CRITERIA	SUB CRITERIA	DESCRIPTION	WEIGHT
1. Consistency with the Target Group and service types		The project proposes to deliver services consistent with SGP service types to the SGP Target Group, and/or to dependants of skilled migrants with low English proficiency in rural and regional areas.	Threshold criterion
2. Suitability of the project		The project is consistent with advertised target groups and regions. The organisation demonstrates how the proposed project meets the needs of clients through the Work Program and describes the services you propose to deliver. The organisation demonstrates the value of expected outcomes for clients. The organisation's proposed budget and staffing plan are appropriate.	40%
2.1	Consistency with advertised target groups and regions	The organisation proposes to address a client target group(s) in a region(s) as described on the department's website.	
2.2	Project Outline	The proposed services are clearly described and demonstrate an understanding of the client group(s) and their settlement needs. The applicant clearly discusses the project's promotion and publicity strategies, the expected demand, and the effectiveness and sustainability of the outcomes. The applicant shows how the location of the project (including outreach services, if applicable) is appropriate.	
2.3	Work Program	The Work Program sets out how the organisation will achieve the proposed outcomes with clearly identified outputs, performance measures and evaluation/review strategies. Multi-year projects have Work Programs showing a clear development of services for each year.	
2.4	Budget and Staffing Plan	The proposed budget and staffing plan are reasonable, well-justified and linked to the organisation's proposed services.	
3. Suitability to deliver the services		The organisation has the relevant skills and experience, community links, and physical infrastructure to deliver the services.	30%
3.1	Infrastructure and Capacity	The organisation has aims and objectives consistent with the SGP, and has the organisational and management structures, human resources plan and physical infrastructure to implement the	

		proposed project.	
3.2	Experience	The organisation demonstrates that it has the relevant experience to deliver the services.	
3.3	Community Engagement	The organisation demonstrates that it has strong links to, and active engagement with, the relevant client group(s), and the relevant mainstream and community services providers.	
4. Ability to comply with reporting and accountability arrangements		The organisation has the ability to administer and account for grant funds, meet SGP performance reporting and accountability arrangements, and understands and can implement quality and risk management practices.	30%
4.1	Financial Management	The organisation has the financial management practices/strategies and accounting processes to effectively administer grants funds.	
4.2	Performance Management and Reporting Arrangements	The organisation has the performance management and data collection systems and processes which would enable it to satisfy the SGP's reporting and accountability requirements.	
4.3	Quality and Risk Management	The organisation has, or has the capacity to develop, suitable quality management practices and a suitable approach to risk management.	
Total			100%