

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 1 November 2005

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(221) Output 2.2: Translating and Interpreting Services

Senator Hurley asked:

Currently how is TIS coping with the influx of African migrants in need of interpreting services?

Answer:

The arrival of African migrants has created irregular demand in a large number of regional languages and dialects. TIS has been able to obtain an interpreter in more than 90% of occasions in the established African communities but has not always been able to meet the monthly demand of the newly emerging languages. TIS has been addressing the increase in demand for African languages by vigorously recruiting interpreters in new and emerging languages. The TIS "New and Emerging Language Recruitment Strategy" has been developed by TIS in 2005 to target its recruitment of interpreters for newly arrived communities in Australia. The languages targeted are primarily African languages. So far this financial year TIS has recruited over 20 interpreters in African languages; more than half of its recruitment year to date. This strong focus on recruiting additional interpreters in African languages will be maintained so that TIS can meet demand in these languages.