

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 1 November 2005

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(231) Output 2.1: Settlement Services

Senator Hurley asked:

Do migrants fail the AMEP citizenship course and if yes how many failed it in 2003-2004 and if no does this mean that all the recent citizens has demonstrated a basic understanding of the English language.

Answer:

In 2003-04, a total of 123 clients completed the AMEP Citizenship course but did not achieve a satisfactory outcome. Clients complete the course satisfactorily if they:

- attended a minimum of 75% of the Citizenship Course classes; and
- attended 100% of classes covering Unit 4 (the Unit focusing on the responsibilities and privileges of Australian citizenship).

The course covers many aspects of Australia and the Australian way of life as well as how to become an Australian citizen. Topics include:

- the values and principles of Australian society;
- Australian geography;
- National symbols and emblems;
- Multiculturalism and reconciliation;
- Australia's parliamentary system of government;
- The responsibilities and privileges of being an Australian citizen;
- Australian law; and
- How to become an Australian citizen.

Clients who satisfactorily complete the AMEP Citizenship Course obtain the "AMEP Australian Citizenship Responsibilities and Privileges Record". The Record is accepted as evidence that the holder has an adequate knowledge of the responsibilities and privileges of Australian citizenship.

Clients obtain the "AMEP Australian Citizenship Language Record" if they have:

- participated in the AMEP for 300 hours; or
- been awarded the Certificate in Spoken and Written English (CSWE) Level II; or
- achieved functional English.

The "AMEP Australian Citizenship Language Record" is accepted as evidence that the holder has a basic knowledge of the English language.

AMEP clients may submit one or both records as part of their citizenship application.