

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 1 November 2005

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(252) Output 3.1: Whole-of-Government Coordination of Policy Development and Service Delivery for Indigenous Australians

Senator Siewert asked:

DIMIA has emphasised that “Ideas for agreements and community priorities will come from communities and Indigenous groups and will be developed in partnership with ICCs.” [ICC homepage] - that SRAs are voluntary and the government will stay committed to providing ongoing support for communities to reach their goals.

How is it determined whether a group of applicants have the authority to make an SRA on behalf of a family, clan or community?

Answer:

In negotiating SRAs, ICC Managers make best efforts to ensure that the agreement reflects the goals and needs of the community as a whole. For example, the ICC Manager may participate in discussions with a range of groups within a given community, such as traditional owners, locally elected leaders, women’s groups, men’s groups, youth groups or the entire community.

The Government will make an SRA with anyone with the authority and capacity to carry it through. People who negotiate an SRA must have the authority, given to them by their group or community, to make an agreement on their behalf.