

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 30 October 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(234) Output 2.1: Settlement Services

Senator Hurley (L&CA 117-118) asked:

In relation to AMEP, what percentage of people who are eligible for the program have completed the 510, 610 and 910 hours respectively? Of those percentages (those eligible for the program), how many have completed their allotted hours or reached a level of functional English?

Answer:

A total of 37,431 people registered and participated in the AMEP in 2004-05 and 2005-06. Not all eligible people register and access their entitlement. Some people register and then defer accessing their entitlement.

Of those who registered with an AMEP service provider in 2004-05 and 2005-06 and participated:

- 69% (25,691) were eligible for 510 hours;
- 28% (10,432) had access to 610 hours;
- 3% (1,308) had access to 910 hours.

In 2004-05 and 2005-06, 16.4% (6,151) of those who registered and participated in that period exited the program with the following results:

- of those eligible for 510 hours (5,141), 0.4% (20) completed 510 hours and 16% (830) achieved functional English;
- of those eligible for 610 hours (984), none completed 610 hours and 22% (219) achieved functional English;
- of those eligible for 910 hours (26), none completed 910 hours and 38% (10) achieved functional English.

The figures above are for clients who have used exactly 510, 610 and 910 hours. As a general rule clients do not use their full hour eligibility for a number of reasons, including:

- moving to mainstream AMEP from the Special Preparatory Program (SPP) when the client is assessed as ready;
- moving to other Commonwealth funded English language programs through job network such a Language Literacy and Numeracy program managed by the Department of Education, Science and Training;
- achieving functional English;
- gaining employment;
- health and family issues; and
- close to the end of their entitlement deciding not to start a program and having to leave part way through the course.