

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

### **SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 20 OCTOBER 2009**

#### **IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO**

##### **(115) Program 5.1: Settlement Services for Migrants and Refugees**

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

During the May 2009 Estimates I asked for detailed information on the additional projects funded under the 2008/09 Settlement Grants Program. In answer to question 55, DIAC provided copies of correspondence with the ANAO. This included a statement prepared by Kate Pope (A/g Deputy Secretary, Client and Corporate Services Group) where she states that the Parliamentary Secretary "was concerned about the representation of more secular, liberal and progressive organisation funding to deliver settlement services under the SGP alongside those which might be more traditional or overtly religious." Please advise how Mr Ferguson's comments were interpreted by DIAC and whether they will become part of the framework for future decisions on funding allocations?

*Answer:*

DIAC interpreted these comments as supporting an approach which encourages a wide range of organisations to seek funding under the Settlement Grants Program and encourages organisations to put forward innovative projects to meet clients' needs. This ensures that clients can access services from organisations that appropriately address their settlement needs.

The framework for funding allocations is considered by the Government before each funding round.