

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(361) Program 5.1: AMEP / Settlement Services for Migrants and Refugees

Senator Cash asked:

The Rainbow Coast Neighbourhood Centre was given a grant of \$164,000.00 GST exclusive on June 30th 2009. This grant was for Integration services.

(a) What were the measures of financial accountability and outcomes for the Rainbow Coast Neighbourhood Centre?

(b) Please detail how this money was spent and what was achieved.

Answer:

(a) The Funding Agreement between the Department of Immigration and Citizenship and the Rainbow Coast Neighbourhood Centre included an Approved Budget, performance monitoring measures and agreed project outcomes. The Funding Agreement required the organisation to provide an end of year Audited Financial Statement detailing how funds were spent and two written Progress Reports at 6 and 12 months of each Financial Year outlining its performance against the Outcomes and Activities set out in the Approved Work Program for the relevant period.

(b) This project covered two service types – Orientation to Australia and Integration.

Orientation to Australia

- 408 humanitarian clients were assisted through casework and group information sessions to develop life skills to enable them to independently access mainstream support services. Topics included parenting skills, income support, basic budgeting skills, tenancy, employment, assistance with completing documents and other topics aimed at developing clients understanding and skills of living in Australia. Casework services were delivered in Albany, Katanning and Mt Barker.
- The services continue to develop clients' understanding of, and access to, mainstream support services enhancing their capacity to become self-reliant.

Integration

- The organisation assisted the community to develop relationships with mainstream agencies and local stakeholders.
- This resulted in increased awareness of client needs among service providers and initiated a number of programs. For example, the project officer in Katanning

collaborated with the Department for Youth & the local Shire Youth Liaison Officer to involve young migrants in a Challenge & Leadership Camp.

- In consultation with Burmese community members the organisation successfully assisted them to develop links with local schools, AMEP, Dept of Child Protection (DCP), TAFE and the local library in the Katanning area.

(b) The Audited Financial Statements from Rainbow Coast Neighbourhood Centre Inc. indicated that:

- the amount of Settlement Grant Program funding of \$164,000 for 2009-10 was spent as follows:

\$ 97,364.85 Labour (eg salaries, on-costs and training)
\$ 28,629.81 Project costs (eg travel, management fees)
\$ 43,121.85 Organisational costs (eg facilities, telephone, IT,
accounting and insurance)

Note: The Centre contributed \$4,316.51 towards costs.