

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 15 October 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE12/0610) PROGRAM – 5.1: Settlement Services for Migrants and Refugees

Senator Cash (written) asked:

Annual Report - Cost of interpreters (pg261): It is stated that there was 10 per cent growth in the number of 'on site' interpreting services – driven by 'part of the department's response to IMAs' and 65,242 interpreting services were delivered in total. What were the total number of services delivered to IMAs? What is meant by the 'new and emerging community languages' the IMA caseload had increased the need for?

Answer:

What were the total number of services delivered to IMAs?

The total number of all onsite interpreting services delivered in the 2011–12 financial year to both the community and in immigration detention facilities was 65 242.

Of the 65 242 total onsite services provided, 3 619 IMA services were provided onsite to clients in immigration detention facilities. Typically, an IMA onsite service may consist of an assignment delivered in an immigration detention facility lasting for a period of several weeks at a time.

What is meant by the 'new and emerging community languages' the IMA caseload had increased the need for?

A new and emerging language is one which has:

- only recently become a spoken language in Australia,
- is not widely spoken or commonly known in Australia, or
- lacks the 'critical mass' to have developed a community infrastructure.

National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI) identifies 78 languages as new and emerging.

These languages are Acholi, Amharic, Arabic (Sudanese), Bari, Burmese, Chaldean, Creole, Dari, Dinka, Dzhongka, Eastern Kaya, Ewe, Falam (Chin), Fanti, Fula, Fur, Gan, Haka (Chin), Hazaragi, Hmong, Ikbo, Kachin, Kakwa, Kannadai, Karen, Khmer, Kikuyu, Kingoni, Kinyarwanda, Kirundi, Kono, Kpelle, Krio, Kuku, Kurdish (Kurmanji), Kurdish (Sorani), Kurdish, (Faili), Lao, Liberian Pidgin, Lingala, Lisu, Loko, Luo, Madi, Mandingo, Mara (Chin), Maru, Mende, Mina, Mizo (Chin), Moru, Nepali, Nuer, Oromo, Pojulu, Rohingya, Shilluk (Chollo), Sinhalese, Siym, Somali, Sukuma, Susu, Swahili, Tamil, Temne, Tedim (Chin), Tigre, Tigrinya, Tshiluba, Twi, Uighur, Uzbek, Watchi, Yalunka, Zande, Zomi (Chin) and Zonot (Chin).

These languages may or may not be accredited by NAATI (National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters).

Of these languages, TIS National has experienced a significant increase in demand for onsite interpreting in Hakka Chin, Karen, Liberian Pidgin, Pwo Chin and Tibetan. Demand has also remained high in Dari, Hakka (Timorese), Hazaragi, Juba, Kirundi, Kurdish (Faili), Rohingya, Sinhalese, Sudanese Arabic and Tamil languages.