

## **BUDGET ESTIMATES 2008-2009**

(General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4)

Portfolio - Citizenship

### **ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

#### **76. - Community Relations Commission – GANG VIOLENCE**

**Supplementary Question: Ms Jenny Gardiner to the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Citizenship and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts –**

Following reports of increased gang violence, other than the Government introducing the Middle Eastern Organised Crime Squad and Operation Viking, are there any initiatives which are directed to providing proactive education and assistance to new citizens to try and address this major problem? If so, please provide details of such initiatives.

#### **ANSWER**

The New South Wales *Police Commissioner's Advisory Council on Culturally Responsive Policing* discusses these issues and it may be more appropriate to seek advice from the Minister for Police.

#### **77 - Community Relations Commission – ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING**

**Supplementary Question: Ms Jenny Gardiner to the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Citizenship and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts –**

1. Has the Government allocated any funding to assist new citizens with their education, in particular the teaching of the English language?
2. What is the amount allocated?
3. How have these funds been allocated?

#### **ANSWERS (1-3)**

This question should be addressed to the Minister for Education, who has responsibility for educational provision. However, it should be noted that the

provision of English as a Second Language training to new arrivals is primarily a Federal responsibility, and is addressed through the Commonwealth-funded Adult Migrant English Program, and Language, Literacy and Numeracy Programs.

#### **78. - Community Relations Commission – IMUNISATION PROGRAMS**

##### **Supplementary Question: Ms Jenny Gardiner to the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Citizenship and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts –**

Has the Government implemented any strategies to promote in ethnic communities immunisation programs including the human papilloma vaccine? If so, what is the exact amount of funds allocated for this purpose? How successful has the uptake of vaccination programs been to date?

##### **ANSWER**

This question should be addressed to the Minister for Health.

#### **79. - Community Relations Commission – WATER SAFETY**

##### **Supplementary Question: Ms Jenny Gardiner to the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Citizenship and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts –**

Following incidents of drowning and other mishaps at New South Wales beaches and pools amongst members of the ethnic community, has the Government allocated any funding to teaching swimming and water safety measures and to multilingual safety signs at beaches, public pools and other waterways? If so, what is the amount?

##### **ANSWER**

There are a wide range of swimming and water safety programs being provided to people from diverse cultural backgrounds by the Department of the Arts, Sport and Recreation, with valuable input from non-government organizations such as the Royal Life Saving Society of Australia, and Surf Life Saving Australia. Further information should be sought from the Minister for Sport and Recreation.

In relation to safety signage for pools and beaches, this is essentially the responsibility of local councils, and information on this matter should be sought through the Minister for Local Government.

#### **80. - Community Relations Commission – AUSSIE PRIDE BADGES**

##### **Supplementary Question: Ms Jenny Gardiner to the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Citizenship and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts –**

Is the Minister aware that Canterbury Rotary has introduced Aussie Pride Badges? Will the Government support the purchase of these badges to present them to new citizens at citizenship ceremonies?

##### **ANSWER**

The Rotary Club of Boroondara Sunrise (since merged with Rotary Club of Canterbury Inc.), Victoria, created the Aussie Pride Badge as a tangible way for Australians to show our commitment to national pride, peace and unity. It is intended as a community service, and serves as a fund-raiser for the Rotary Club. Any individual or organization wishing to purchase the badges may do so from the Rotary Club of Canterbury Inc, P.O Box 314, Canterbury Vic 3126.

## **81. - Community Relations Commission – EDUCATION FOR DEMOCRACY**

### **Supplementary Question: Ms Jenny Gardiner to the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Citizenship and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts –**

What initiatives is the Minister or Community Relations Commission undertaking to educate new citizens as to our democratic election process and their rights and responsibilities? If so, please provide details of these initiatives.

#### **ANSWER**

At every stage of the development of their communities, immigrants are involved in dealing with the democratic system.

The Community Relations Commission uses its limited resources where possible, by guiding and assisting organisations to get established. In practical terms the Commission makes grants to community organisations to facilitate the process of participation.

The process of forming or joining a community organisation is an education in the operation of our democratic system. The existence of these mainly self-help organisations is itself an effective measure to assist individuals to join in the wider society.

The Community Relations Commission consulted with various communities regarding the proposed Australian Citizenship Test and lodged a submission to the Australian Government's review of the test highlighting community concerns, and that any questions relating to Australian values should be those underpinned by Australian laws.

Information is distributed through the CRC Regional Advisory Councils and the Australian Electoral Commission participated in a stall at a festival it organised and where possible Commissioners attend local government citizenship ceremonies.

## **82. - Community Relations Commission – DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE**

### **Supplementary Question: Ms Jenny Gardiner to the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Citizenship and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts –**

1. What is the Government doing to monitor demographic change and assess the need for further resources to address such changes?
2. What role does the Government play in advising other Government Agencies and Departments on demographic changes due to new citizens?

## **ANSWER**

Under the Ethnic Affairs Priorities Statement program, New South Wales Government agencies are encouraged to research and monitor demographic changes, including new and emerging communities, to inform their program and services planning and implementation.

To assist in this regard the Community Relations Commission initiated the publication of the People of New South Wales. This publication analyses intercensal changes by local government area across a range of demographic indicators including country of birth, English competency and religion among others.

The Community Relations Commission chairs the NSW Government Immigration and Settlement Planning Committee. As part of the committee's role to address settlement planning in NSW, monthly humanitarian arrival statistics are circulated and discussed.

### **83. - Community Relations Commission – BILINGUAL SCHOOLS**

**Supplementary Question: Ms Jenny Gardiner to the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Citizenship and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts –**

Has the Government allocated any funding for the support of bilingual schools and for teaching other languages in schools? If so, what are the amounts?

## **ANSWER**

This question falls within the area of responsibility of the Minister for Education and Training.

### **84. - Community Relations Commission – COMMUNITY LANGUAGE SCHOOLS**

**Supplementary Question: Ms Jenny Gardiner to the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Citizenship and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts –**

What is the Government's attitude to community language schools? Will you be increasing funding to community language schools? If not, why not?

## **ANSWER**

This question falls within the area of responsibility of the Minister for Education and Training.

### **85. - Community Relations Commission – VOLUNTEERING AND SPORTS PARTICIPATION**

**Supplementary Question: Ms Jenny Gardiner to the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Citizenship and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts –**

What initiatives, have been introduced by the Government to encourage new citizens into community activities, volunteerism, sport etc? What amount of funds has been allocated to support such initiatives?

## **ANSWER**

The Community Relations Commission encourages the participation of immigrant communities, including new citizens, through the Annual Community Relations Commission Awards for Volunteering. The awards honour those individuals in New South Wales whose tireless community service has enhanced the cultural and social wellbeing of their migrant communities. The purpose of these awards is to highlight the cultural diversity of those undertaking voluntary work and to foster participation of community members in volunteer activities.

The Community Development Grants Program is an ongoing program of the Community Relations Commission, which provides funding to submission-based projects of not-for-profit community organisations. The program aims to promote community harmony and encourage the participation of people from multicultural communities, particularly newly arrived immigrants and refugees in all aspects of life in New South Wales.

The Community Relations Commission also provides the *EmailLink*, an information distribution service, targeting multicultural groups and individuals in the community. The service assists in the provision of information on government services or volunteering opportunities, to multicultural communities, thereby facilitating greater participation of new citizens in the public and civic life of New South Wales.

In addition, the Community Relations Commission has invited Regional Managers of the Red Cross to address all 10 of its Regional Advisory Councils to promote the concept of volunteerism, and to develop and increase greater involvement of ethnic communities in mainstream voluntary activities and in volunteer organisations.

For several years now, the annual *Community Relations Report* has incorporated information provided by the Department of the Arts, Sport and Recreation, highlighting a wide range of excellent initiatives being undertaken by Sport and Recreation to encourage participation in sports and recreational activities by people from diverse language, religious and cultural communities. Details of these initiatives should be sought from the Minister for Sport and Recreation.

## **86. - Community Relations Commission – AGEING COMMUNITIES**

### **Supplementary Question: Ms Jenny Gardiner to the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Citizenship and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts –**

Have any funding or support initiatives been introduced to assist with education about planning, funding and awareness in ethnic communities to cater for the needs of their aging demographic? Does the Government actively support such initiatives like the Scalabrini Villages and Chinese Aged Hostel Association? If so, how does it do this?

## **ANSWER**

The Department of Ageing Home Care and Disability has overall responsibility for aged care issues and has appointed senior officers to most of the Regional Advisory Councils of the Community Relations Commission.

Further advice on initiatives and planning for the needs of an ageing ethnic population are more appropriately sought from the Minister for Ageing.

## **87 - Community Relations Commission – RECRUITMENT STRATEGIES**

### **Supplementary Question: Ms Jenny Gardiner to the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Citizenship and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts –**

Have you assisted with any strategies or funding to ensure the recruitment of people of Pacific Islander, Asian and middle eastern origin into New South Wales frontline services such as youth workers, social workers, teachers, nurses and police officers? If so, please detail such initiatives.

#### **ANSWER**

Government agencies are required to target the needs of all communities in their Ethnic Affairs Priority Statement planning. This includes the recruitment of appropriate staff to service the needs of their clientele.

The Community Relations Commission contributed to the *Partnership with Arabic Speaking Young People* and the *NSW Partnership with Pacific Communities*. These partnerships included initiatives to mentor young people by senior public servants and to encourage their employment in various agencies. Agencies, such as New South Wales Police, are regular participants at community festivals and events advising of services, breaking down barriers and promoting policing as a career option.

The *Community Language Allowance Scheme* recognises the value of a person's language in providing services and is promoted throughout the New South Wales government agencies.

## **88. - Community Relations Commission – ETHNIC DESCRIPTORS**

### **Supplementary Question: Ms Jenny Gardiner to the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Citizenship and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts –**

Does the Minister support the Government's ongoing position of using ethnic descriptors in relation to the Middle Eastern and Asian communities and Policing issues?

#### **ANSWER**

The NSW Police Force uses ethnicity based descriptors to assist it in identifying and apprehending alleged criminals. Further information on this matter should be sought from the Minister for Police.

## **89. - Community Relations Commission – ECC FUNDING**

### **Supplementary Question: Ms Jenny Gardiner to the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Citizenship and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts –**

Why has the NSW Government overseen a cut in direct funding to the Ethnic Communities Council (ECC) over the past decade in real terms?

**ANSWER**

Almost since the creation of the Ethnic Communities Council of NSW, the Community Relations Commission has provided the Council with core funding for purposes such as the employment of managerial staff and office expenses. During the late 1990's, the Commission undertook a review of the financial management of the Ethnic Communities Council relating to concerns about the financial viability and accountability of the Council and its acquittals of Commission grants. A further review was conducted on the structure of Council in 2000. In presenting its report in February 2001, the Committee that undertook the review recommended 36 changes to the constitution of the Council and to its administrative procedures.

At the budget estimates committee of 2 July 2001, the then Premier Carr made a statement that the Council needed to respond to the recommendations for improvement in governance and management and that the basis of funding to it is to be as competitive as possible. The Council was then informed that the NSW Government's funding direction is to provide equal access to a variety of eligible community organisations in the State. This applies not just to the Council but across the spectrum of community based organisations. Since then the Council has been successful in attracting project funding from the Commission, being \$79,000 for 2007 and \$79,000 for 2008.

**90. - Community Relations Commission – ECC FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS**

**Supplementary Question: Ms Jenny Gardiner to the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Citizenship and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts –**

Does the Minister consider it appropriate that the ECC must rely on funding through specific projects rather than have the choice to prioritise its activities on a needs basis? Is there any plan to change this arrangement?

**ANSWER**

The Ethnic Communities' Council (ECC) of NSW is a non-government organization governed by its Management and Executive Committees.

As a body independent of government, the Ethnic Communities' Council is solely responsible for its financial management strategies, including the determination of external funding to be sought.

**91. - Community Relations Commission – PORTFOLIO TITLE**

**Supplementary Question: Ms Jenny Gardiner to the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Citizenship and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts –**

Are you comfortable that your Government has chosen to remove the word "multicultural" from the portfolio?

**ANSWER**

Yes, it is citizenship that establishes the rights of an individual and the reciprocal obligations of a state.

## **92. - Community Relations Commission – TRADE OFFICES IN CHINA**

### **Supplementary Question: Ms Jenny Gardiner to the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Citizenship and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts –**

Do you think it appropriate that your Government has reduced the number of overseas trade offices in China – especially given that states like Queensland have increased their presence? Are there any plans to change the level of such presence? If so, detail the plans for change.

#### **ANSWER**

I am of course extremely proud of this Government's excellent trade partnership with the People's Republic of China, but trade arrangements, particularly off-shore trade, do not fall within the parameters of the Citizenship portfolio. This question should be directed to the Minister for State Development.

## **93. - Community Relations Commission – POST HIGH SCHOOL PATHWAYS**

### **Supplementary Question: Ms Jenny Gardiner to the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Citizenship and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts –**

What work has your Government done to provide information to parents of NESB students to encourage greater take up of apprenticeships, TAFE courses and University studies. Please provide details.

#### **ANSWER**

This question falls within the area of responsibility of the Minister for Education and Training.

## **94. - Community Relations Commission – KPIs**

### **Supplementary Question: Ms Jenny Gardiner to the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Citizenship and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts –**

1. What do you regard as your key performance indicators in the Citizenship portfolio (KPI's)?
2. How will these KPI's be measured?



## **ANSWERS (1-2)**

The Community Relations Commission's main result, which is identified within its Results and Services Plan in order to achieve the building of harmonious communities, is *increased community harmony through participation and avoidance of conflict*.

With the aim of achieving these results the Community Relations Commission provides a number of services which are aggregated for the Budget Papers into two distinct service groups: Community Support Services and Language Services.

These are measured through the numbers of expressions of interest for grant applications for the promotion of social justice, participation in community events funded by the Commission, and the number of language service assignments performed.

Further measures are shown in the New South Wales Budget Papers 2008-2009, Budget Estimates, Budget Paper No. 3 – Volume 1, page 2-31.

### **95. - Community Relations Commission – WHOLE OF GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES**

#### **Supplementary Question: Ms Jenny Gardiner to the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Citizenship and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts –**

What specific discussions have you had with your colleagues about ensuring a “whole of Government” approach to the portfolio eg in areas such as Education, Health and State Development? What were the result of these discussions?

#### **ANSWER**

The Community Relations Commission works closely with major Government departments, such as Education and Training, Health, and State and Regional Development, which are designated as “Key Agencies” under the Ethnic Affairs Priorities Statement program, providing advice on program planning and implementation.

### **96. - Community Relations Commission – CHALLENGES**

#### **Supplementary Question: Ms Jenny Gardiner to the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Citizenship and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts –**

What does the Minister believe are the three biggest challenges facing her in the Citizenship portfolio? Please list.

#### **ANSWER**

1. Supporting and maintaining the equal rights and responsibilities of all the people of New South Wales
2. Strengthening community harmony by promoting the value of cultural diversity as an underlying asset for a successful, cohesive society.

3. Inspiring greater acceptance and acknowledgment among the business community within New South Wales, that diversity is a major economic asset to be tapped into ensuring we achieve our greatest potential. This asset, of course, includes knowledge of the language and culture of our major trading partners, which will ensure our more effective engagement with them.

**97. - Community Relations Commission –**

**Supplementary Question: Ms Jenny Gardiner to the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Citizenship and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts –**

Will there be any cuts to the Citizenship portfolio as a result of the November mini-budget?

**ANSWER**

Please refer this question to the Treasurer.

**98. - Community Relations Commission – CITIZENSHIP TEST**

**Supplementary Question: Ms Jenny Gardiner to the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Citizenship and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts –**

What advice/input has your Government had with the Federal Government in relation to the Citizenship test? What is the State Government's position in relation to the Citizenship test?

**ANSWER**

Copies of the Community Relations Commission submissions to the *Proposed Citizenship Test* and the *Australian Citizen Test Review* can be provided on request.

**99. - Community Relations Commission – IMMIGRATION LEVEL**

**Supplementary Question: Ms Jenny Gardiner to the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Citizenship and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts –**

What does the State Government believe is an appropriate level of Australian immigration?

**ANSWER**

The Australian Government is responsible for the migration program.

NSW supports planning levels for the migration program that address the labour and skills supply needs of Australian employers, meet Australia's obligations under

the United Nations conventions, and capitalise on the economic and social benefits of family reunion.

**100. - Community Relations Commission – MIGRANT LEVELS FOR SYDNEY**

**Supplementary Question: Ms Jenny Gardiner to the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Citizenship and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts –**

**How many more migrants do you think Sydney should take?**

**ANSWER**

The Australian Government is responsible for the migration program.

It is not possible to determine the number of migrants that Sydney should take. It depends on the current economic conditions and the skills requirements of industry and government. To set a preconceived number may have a negative economic impact for both business activity and service provision in New South Wales.

**101. - Community Relations Commission – MIGRANT ARRIVAL NUMBERS**

**Supplementary Question: Ms Jenny Gardiner to the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Citizenship and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts –**

What are the estimated migrant arrival numbers for Sydney in each of the years 2008-09 until 2018-19?

**ANSWER**

The annual migration program is adjusted annually by the Australian Government to reflect forecasting of the labour and skills needs and the role that migration can play in meeting those needs. It is not possible to offer precise predictions about the size of future migration.

Virginia Judge, MP  
**Minister for Citizenship**