



MINISTER FOR FAIR TRADING
MINISTER FOR CITIZENSHIP
MINISTER ASSISTING THE PREMIER ON THE ARTS

QUESTION ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2009-2010 – CITIZENSHIP

Community Relations Commission – LANGUAGES SPOKEN AT HOME

Minister for Citizenship in response to a question by the Hon. MARIE FICCARA regarding the Community Relations Commission budget for 2009-10

In New South Wales we have people from about 200 different birthplaces and about 50 to 55 percent speak a language other than English at home. I am not sure about that percentage, but I can clarify it.

RESPONSE

According to the most recent *The People of New South Wales*, 20.1% of New South Wales respondents to the 2006 Census reported speaking a language other than English at home.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'V. Judge'.

Virginia Judge, MP
Minister for Citizenship



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QUESTION ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2009-2010 – CITIZENSHIP

Community Relations Commission – ETHNIC COMMUNITIES COUNCIL FUNDING

Minister for Citizenship in response to a question by the Hon. MARIE FICARRA regarding the funding of the Ethnic Communities Council of NSW on a triennial basis, rather than having to make annual submissions for grants

We have been considering possible triennial arrangements. We will consider this in relation to the councils and we are happy to keep in touch with them and I can let you know, because I know you have a passionate interest in that area too

RESPONSE

In 2009, a review of the Community Development Grants program was finalised. One of the outcomes of that review is that local councils can now be funded for up to three years to employ a worker to support the needs of the local community. As the Community Relations Commission develops operational relationships with the parent agency, Communities NSW, further reviews of grants administration will take place. Triennial funding will be considered within that context.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Virginia Judge'.

Virginia Judge, MP
Minister for Citizenship



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QUESTION ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2009-2010 – CITIZENSHIP

**Community Relations Commission – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
GRANTS PROGRAM**

**Minister for Citizenship in response to a question by the Hon. EDDIE
OBEID on how the Rees Government's recent changes to the
Community Development Grants Program better address the needs of
communities across the State**

As a concrete example, recently I visited Lismore doing a few different things. One of the interesting programs I looked at was being run out of a community neighbourhood centre. I have to clarify the facts but I think about 30 refugees had arrived from Ethiopia.

RESPONSE

Around 30 refugees have settled in the Lismore area from various African countries, primarily from Sudan. The community organisation, Community Connections, has undertaken a number of practical measures to assist some of those recent arrivals to settle into the area. One of these is the establishment of a Homework Centre. This involves a number of volunteers, some of whom are retired teachers, giving up two hours of their time, twice a week to assist the young people - some of whom have never been to school before, and who may have experienced a number of refugee camps in their short lives - to do their homework.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'V. Judge'.

Virginia Judge, MP
Minister for Citizenship