

Questions Taken on Notice and Further Information Agreed to be supplied at the 2015-16 PAEC Budget Estimates Hearings

Multicultural Affairs

1. Regarding the task force to look at ways to combat racism and bigotry, please advise:
 - a. who is on the task force;
 - b. when it has met; and
 - c. what are its terms of reference.

(Page 4-5 and 9 of the Multicultural Affairs portfolio transcript)

Response

The Social Cohesion and Community Resilience Taskforce is chaired by the Deputy Premier and includes the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, the Minister for Police and Corrections and the Minister for Youth Affairs. The Chief Commissioner of Police and the Chair of the Victorian Multicultural Commission are observers on the Taskforce.

The Taskforce met on 27 May 2015 and 30 June 2015.

The terms of reference of the Taskforce are to develop a high level strategy to guide projects focused on developing social cohesion and community resilience and to ensure that initiatives are evidence based and co-created with communities, especially young people.

2. Regarding cultural competence training, please provide further detail about:
 - a. how training will be provided;
 - b. which service providers will be involved; and
 - c. what other initiatives, if any, are to be paid for out of the Multicultural Access Program initiative.

(Pages 7 and 9 of the Multicultural Affairs portfolio transcript)

Response

Cultural competence training will be provided by external training providers directly to Victorian Government departments and agencies.

Cultural competence training will be made available to Victorian Government departments, agencies and funded service providers, and will target priority areas based on need.

In addition to cultural competence training, the Multicultural Access Program will fund initiatives to improve the quality and supply of language services. Details of the 2015-16 initiatives are to be determined, but as I stated at the budget estimates hearing, the range of initiatives is likely to include:

- Scholarships for students to undertake training as interpreters in targeted languages where there is evidence of current or future gaps in supply.
- Interpreter training in rural and regional areas.
- Professional development courses for interpreters and translators in specialised areas such as health, mental health and legal.
- Improved access to online information in languages other than English.