

“CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA: A DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE” —
INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES

337. Ms J. FARRER to the Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests:

I refer to the report “Cultural Diversity in Western Australia: A Demographic Profile”, launched by the minister in April 2010, which tells the story of Western Australia’s cultural and linguistic diversity.

- (1) Why does the language profile exclude Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages?
- (2) Why is the cultural diversity of Aboriginal people not specifically recognised in this report?

Dr M.D. NAHAN replied:

I thank the member for Kimberley for the question. It is a good question.

- (1)–(2) I guess the Office of Multicultural Interest focuses on cultural and linguistically diversity of mainly migrants. It is an oversight not to include Aboriginal people in that profile, and I apologise for that. It will not happen again. It is a good question and it was an omission in the process of the report. If such a document is done in the future, it will definitely include Aboriginal people.