

Division 36: Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries — Citizenship and Multicultural Interests \$89 492 000 —

Ms C.M. Collins, Chair.

Dr A.D. Buti, Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests.

Ms L. Chopping, Director General.

Mr J. Jegasothy, Executive Director, Office of Multicultural Interests.

Ms E. Gauntlett, Deputy Director General, Management and Coordination.

Ms L. Kalasopatan, Executive Director, Finance.

Mr S. Padshah, Senior Policy Adviser.

[Witnesses introduced.]

The CHAIR: The estimates committees will be reported by Hansard. The daily proof will be available online as soon as possible within two business days. The chair will allow as many questions as possible. Questions and answers should be short and to the point. Consideration is restricted to items for which a vote of money is proposed in the consolidated account. Questions must relate to a page number, item or amount related to the current division, and members should preface their questions with these details. Some divisions are the responsibility of more than one minister. Ministers shall only be examined in relation to their portfolio responsibilities.

A minister may agree to provide supplementary information to the committee. I will ask the minister to clearly indicate what information they agree to provide and will then allocate a reference number. Supplementary information should be provided to the principal clerk by noon on Friday, 2 June 2023. If a minister suggests that a matter be put on notice, members should use the online questions on notice system to submit their questions.

I give the call to the member for Roe.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I seek a bit of clarity. Page 529 and page 549 list multicultural community grants, but we seem to have differing amounts there. I am wondering whether the minister can clarify that. On page 529, we have \$250 000 for each out year, and on page 429, in the other section, we have \$1.31 million for each out year. Can the minister clarify what is going on there?

Dr A.D. BUTI: One is the spending change, and one is the total amount. Obviously, the larger one is the total amount, and the other one is the spending change.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Thank you. I refer to page 535 and the percentage of stakeholders who report that the Office of Multicultural Interests had a positive impact on the promotion and support of multiculturalism. That has increased from 80 per cent to 90 per cent in the following year, 2022–23, and then to 90 per cent in 2023–24. How are those stakeholders selected, and how much is spent undertaking the research to arrive at that annual rating?

Dr A.D. BUTI: Is the member asking how much the surveys are costing?

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: How much do they cost and how are the people selected to undertake the research?

Dr A.D. BUTI: About 1 900 people were surveyed, and it cost \$22 946.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I will ask one final question.

Dr A.D. BUTI: Quickly.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: On page 549, the multicultural community grants are obviously the same amount of money each year. Is the number of community groups and multicultural groups that the grants are being applied to expanding? Are more groups getting less money or is it the same number of groups getting about the same amount of money?

Dr A.D. BUTI: The groups that are allocated the grant each year vary. They are not given a lesser amount when they get the grants. A wide variety of groups apply for it, there is a process and then the grants are delivered but they are not necessarily given a lesser amount when they get the grant.

The appropriation was recommended.

Meeting suspended from 1.00 to 2.00 pm