

CITIZENSHIP STRATEGY

416. Hon SIMON O'BRIEN to the minister representing the Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests:

Will the minister provide details to the House of the development of the State's first citizenship strategy?

Hon M.J. CRIDDLE replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. The formulation of a Western Australian citizenship strategy began with an extensive consultation process seeking feedback and input into the discussion paper, "Citizenship - Building a Shared Future", which was launched on 12 April 2000. The paper was developed from outcomes of the Citizenship 2000+ symposium in November 1999. Individuals and groups at all levels were involved in the consultations, including community organisations and volunteer groups, the business and public sectors, educational institutions, and local and regional governments. A special effort was made to capture input from target groups such as young people, seniors, women, people with disabilities, indigenous people and the various ethnic communities.

Outcomes from the consultation process have been incorporated in the recommendations contained in "Citizenship: Building A Shared Future - The Way Forward", launched on 27 October 2000. This document contains recommendations from the Western Australian Citizenship and Multicultural Advisory Council. It is intended to secure support across government, community and business sectors to assist in implementing recommendations; to actively promote an inclusive culture among all Western Australians that will enable the strategy to thrive; and to foster more creative strategic alliances and partnerships across government, community and business sectors.

The priorities indicated by these recommendations will be translated into a strategy for action across Western Australia. It will include specific time lines, responsibilities and resources.

Through the Office of Citizenship and Multicultural Interests the Government has already made a commitment to develop and implement some initiatives relating to these recommendations. These include information materials for various target groups, working in partnership with the Constitutional Centre; a citizenship directory and handbook; and an anti-racism strategy.