Terms of Reference

Adult Migrant English Program Stakeholder Consultations

Introduction
Assistant Minister for Education and Training, Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham will soon undertake community consultations on the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) to explore areas of possible reform to policy parameters of a recent evaluation of AMEP and the need to deliver on settlement, employment, participation and social engagement objectives.

These Terms of Reference (ToR) set out the scope of these consultations.

Purpose
The purpose of the community consultations is to consult with the community to identify opportunities to improve the scope, eligibility and outcomes of the AMEP. Policy changes may help to inform the development of a new AMEP business model, commencing in July 2017 when current AMEP contracts end.

Background
AMEP is designed to help newly-arrived migrants and humanitarian entrants learn basic English language skills to help them successfully settle, and participate socially and economically in Australian society. AMEP provides up to 510 hours of free English language tuition to eligible migrants and humanitarian entrants. Some eligible clients may also access additional tuition under AMEP’s Special Preparatory Programme (SPP) and the Settlement Language Pathways to Employment and Training (SLPET) programme.

An evaluation of AMEP was conducted in 2014 which found that overall the programme is valued and is providing substantial assistance to new migrants in promoting and supporting the acquisition of English language skills necessary for successful settlement in Australia. The evaluation also identified a number of areas for reform or further investigation, which these consultations will explore.
Potential areas of change
Consultation will focus on community views on the following:

- the scope, eligibility and delivery of AMEP and its sub-programmes and services
- the potential to personalise English language tuition services provided to eligible migrants and humanitarian entrants according to individual needs
- whether grants should mandate participation in English language tuition in any circumstances
- whether to introduce partial fee-for-service for some AMEP client groups to access all or some parts of the programme
- programme delivery options such as a multi-provider model, where more than one provider can deliver services in a single region
- measures of programme effectiveness
- how AMEP should connect to pathways to resettlement services and other education, training and employment programmes delivered by Commonwealth, state and territory grants
- the suitability of the existing English proficiency assessment tool used in the AMEP, the International Second Language Proficiency Rating (ISLPR), and the use of other mainstream assessment tools
- the suitability of alternative nationally accredited courses (curriculum).

Further information
For further information on AMEP Community consultations, including dates and locations, please visit www.education.gov.au/amep, or contact the department at AMEPinfo@education.gov.au or 133 873.