

# FACT SHEET

DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION  
AND MULTICULTURAL AND  
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

## 92. MIGRANT COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA) provides funding through migrant community services to assist migrants and humanitarian entrants to participate equitably in Australian society as soon as possible after arrival.

The funding is targeted to meet the settlement needs of recently arrived humanitarian entrants and family stream migrants with low levels of English proficiency.

The funding is for:

- the Migrant Resource Centre (MRC)/Migrant Service Agency (MSA) network, and
- the Community Settlement Services Scheme (CSSS).

For the 2003-04 financial year \$27.1 million was made available for MRCs/MSAs and CSSS projects.

### **The Migrant Resource Centre/Migrant Service Agency network**

Organisations that are part of the national network of MRCs/MSAs:

- offer settlement information, orientation and referral services to recently arrived migrants and refugees
- support the settlement, establishment and participation of high need ethnic/cultural communities in the Australian community
- provide coordinated effective service delivery that is responsive to the particular needs of the migrant and humanitarian entrant population in the target area, and
- promote awareness of the needs of migrants and humanitarian entrants to mainstream providers.

### **The Community Settlement Services Scheme**

The CSSS provides grants funding to not-for-profit community organisations and local government bodies.

These organisations are able to:

- deliver settlement information and referral services to individuals
- facilitate community capacity building, and
- promote client needs to mainstream service providers.

CSSS grants are awarded at the discretion of the Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs. They are advertised annually and are offered for one, two or three years. However, in 2003, CSSS grants were awarded for nine-month and twenty-one month periods to align funding with the financial year from 1 July 2004.

In the 2003 round, the advertised priority client groups for CSSS funding were:

- refugee and humanitarian entrants
- migrants living in rural and regional areas
- small and emerging migrant communities, and
- migrant groups with additional settlement needs (as identified by applicants).

The number of grants in any year depends on the available funding. In the 2003 round, \$12.13 million was awarded to new CSSS grants for 21 months.

For information relating to specialist settlement services provided to refugees and humanitarian entrants in the immediate post-arrival period, see Fact Sheet 66, *Integrated Humanitarian Settlement Strategy*.

For information about language tuition, see Fact Sheet 94 *English Language Tuition for Adult Migrants*.

Further information on Australian immigration matters is available on the DIMIA Internet site at:

<http://www.immi.gov.au>

The Department also operates a 24-hour general inquiry telephone line on 131 881.

Fact Sheet 92. Produced by the Public Affairs Section, Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, Canberra. Revised 17 November 2003.

© Commonwealth of Australia 2003