



## NEWS RELEASE

Sharon Bird MP  
Federal Member for Cunningham

# Citizenship Support Grant for Wollongong

*Illawarra Multicultural Services (IMS)* will receive \$60,000 funding to provide services under the Commonwealth Government's *Citizenship Support Grants Programme*, Federal Member for Cunningham, Sharon Bird, announced today.

“The funding will assist the IMS to provide services to help migrants prepare to sit the Australian Citizenship test”, Ms Bird said.

The *Citizenship Support Grants Program* will deliver a range of services in 2008-09 on a pilot basis including:

- advice and explanation of the responsibilities and privileges of Australian citizenship, Australian values, traditions, history and national symbols including assistance in other languages where English language proficiency is poor;
- basic computer lessons to help people gain required proficiency to sit the test;
- assistance people to book in for the test and produce the required documentation;
- advice on the process for conferral of citizenship once the test is passed.

“The services will help refugees and other people overcome disadvantages such as low English proficiency, a lack of formal education, difficulty performing within a formal testing regime and little or no experience with computers”, Ms Bird said,

June 19, 2008

---