

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS**

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-217

Subject: Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Media

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

Please provide a list of all media interviews or press conferences completed by Ministers or Assistant Minister in the Home Affairs portfolio from 1 December 2019 to 30 July 2020 that have been completed with culturally and linguistically diverse media. In providing this list, please provide as much information as possible, including, but not limited to:

- a. Date of interview / press conference
- b. Was the activity an interview or press conference
- c. Minister involved
- d. Media outlet and journalist name
- e. What language(s) the media outlet publishes / broadcasts
- f. Topic(s) covered in the interview / press conference
- g. Was a transcript produced in English?
- h. If a transcript produced in a language other than English, please list those languages.
- i. If an interpreter or translator was used, who paid for the interpreter or translator? And, if the Australian Government paid for the interpreter or translator, what was the cost?

Answer:

The Department of Home Affairs is available to support Home Affairs Portfolio Ministers' and Assistant Minister's offices with the organisation of interviews or press conferences with culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) media. However, media advisers in the relevant Minister's office normally undertake this work.

The Department was not involved in the organisation of Ministerial interviews or press conferences with CALD media during the period 1 December 2019 to 30 July 2020.

The Acting Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multicultural affairs, the Hon Alan Tudge MP, held Multicultural media briefings/conferences on:

- 6 August 2020 ([transcript](#))
- 29 April 2020 ([transcript](#))
- 15 April 2020 ([transcript](#))
- 20 March 2020 ([transcript](#))

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS**

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-218

Subject: Monitoring Media not in English

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

How does the Department monitor media mentions of portfolio ministers and assistant ministers in media that is not published/broadcast in English?

- a. Please provide a list of any providers / contractors that provide these monitor services?
- b. Please provide the value / costs of any of the services listed in (a)

Answer:

The Department of Home Affairs currently has two contracts for media monitoring of culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) media.

- a. Isentia and MediaLink (Multicultural NSW).
- b. Isentia costs \$7,500 (GST excl) per month and MediaLink costs \$3,200 (GST excl) per month.

These monthly costs are applicable from August 2020 to October 2020 as per the current contractual arrangements.

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS**

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-223

Subject: Citizenship Ceremonies

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

How many online citizenships are conducted per day?

Answer:

From 31 March 2020 to 31 July 2020, more than 800 people per day* on average, acquired Australian citizenship through online ceremonies.

** Note: average is calculated based on week days only, and excludes weekends.*

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DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS**

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-224

Subject: Citizenship Ceremonies

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

How many online citizenships have been completed to date?

Answer:

As at 31 July 2020, 68,670 people had been conferred Australian citizenship through online citizenship ceremonies.

HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-225

Subject: Citizenship Ceremonies

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

Please breakdown completed online citizenships by State, Federal Electorate and Local Government Area?

Answer:

Number of people conferred Australian citizenship through online ceremonies, as at 31 July 2020, by residential state or territory	
State/territory	No. of people
VIC	27,434
NSW	18,636
QLD	10,583
WA	8,380
SA	2,509
ACT	652
TAS	221
NT	154
Other	101
Total	68,670

Note: the first online ceremony was held on 31 March 2020.

This report may differ from previous or future reports due to the use of a dynamic database for current financial year figures.

The Department of Home Affairs must be consulted regarding any requests to use this data for purposes not originally intended or discussed.

Data for statistical reporting of people conferred Australian citizenship by Federal Electorate and/or Local Government Area is not collected by the Department of Home Affairs in a reportable format.

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
AUSTRALIAN BORDER FORCE**

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-250

Subject: Future Maritime Surveillance Capability (FMSC)

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, what steps has the Department / ABF taken to improve maritime surveillance in Northern Queensland – particularly with a view of people movement to remote parts of the state?

- a) Have ABF assets been increased to assist in Northern Queensland maritime surveillance?
 - i. If yes, please specify what assets have been deployed? And how many days was each asset deployed for?

- b) Have any ADF assets been deployed into Northern Queensland as part of the ABF's maritime surveillance obligations?
 - i. If yes, please specify what assets have been deployed? And how many days was each asset deployed for?

Answer:

Yes, in response to a) and b):

- i. Our operational activity in the Torres Strait does not rely on a single capability, we deploy a suite of tools to ensure our threats in that region are addressed.

- ii. Since February 2020, ABF has enhanced its presence across the Torres Strait, with additional surveillance across all domains utilising ABF and ADF aerial, maritime and land assets.
 - a) ABF have surged seven additional officers to Saibai and Boigu islands. Through our joint arrangements with Defence, there are additional Regional Force Surveillance Group personnel rotating 24x7.

 - b) An ABF contracted Dash-8 Maritime surveillance aircraft has been tasked to cover the Torres Strait region on a daily basis.

- c) An additional ADF Patrol Boat;
- d) One Intelligence Surveillance Reconnaissance Battery of 47 ADF members, flying RQ-7B Unmanned Aerial Systems.
- e) Three Regional Patrol Crafts and one LCM8 from the RFSG;
- f) Two Ground Surveillance Radars; and
- g) One Airspace Control Team of four ADF personnel, from No 44 Wing RAAF.

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS**

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-302

Subject: Waiting for Citizenship - breakdown

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

How many people are currently waiting for their citizenship application to be processed? (Please provide a breakdown by the number of people waiting at each stage: i.e. waiting for interview, waiting for test, waiting for ceremony)

Answer:

As at 31 July 2020:

- 150,171 Australian citizenship by conferral applications were on hand (including children under 16 years of age who are included on a responsible parent's application form).
 - Of those, around 112,000 applications were associated with people who were waiting to attend a citizenship appointment and complete the Australian citizenship test.
 - Due to COVID-19 risks and restrictions, all in-person citizenship test appointments were placed on hold from March 2020. Appointments recommenced in Perth and Parramatta during July 2020 and progressively in the remaining Home Affairs offices (excluding Melbourne) from August 2020.
- 35,060 people whose application for Australian citizenship by conferral had been approved were awaiting a citizenship ceremony.

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PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-303

Subject: Online Citizenship - Federal breakdown

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

Please breakdown completed online citizenships by Federal MP, Senator and Local government?

Answer:

Number of people who acquired Australian citizenship through online ceremonies as at 31 July 2020	
Conferral Body	31 March 2020 to 31 July 2020
Local government councils	2,007
MPs & Senators	1,161
Total	3,168

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