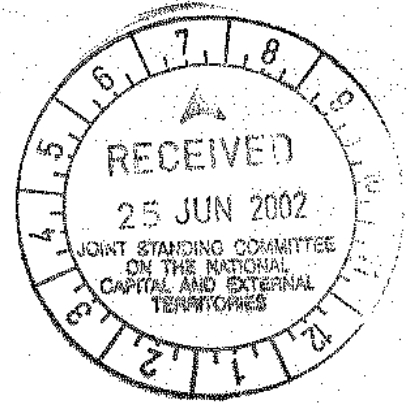




DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL
AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

Ms Margaret Swieringa
Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on the
National Capital and External Territories
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

SUBMISSION 21



Dear Ms Swieringa

RE-REFERRAL OF INQUIRY INTO NORFOLK ISLAND ELECTORAL MATTERS

Thank you for your letter of 9 May 2002 to Mr Metcalfe, Deputy Secretary, inviting supplementary submissions to the inquiry into Norfolk Island electoral matters. Your letter has been referred to me for reply as the issues raised fall within my Division's responsibilities.

I would like to confirm that the submission made by this Department in March 2001 remains current. We would however like to take this opportunity to update the citizenship statistics previously provided.

In this context, please note that between 1 July 1998 and 30 April 2002, 21 persons who were permanent residents on Norfolk Island were granted Australian citizenship.

I would also like to clarify that data provided in our earlier submission related to the number of *applications* for Australian citizenship lodged between 1 July 1998 and 31 January 2001 by people who were permanent residents on Norfolk Island (that is, there were 23 such applications lodged) - not the number of grants of Australian citizenship in that period.

Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to update and clarify citizenship statistics as they relate to the Committee's inquiry.

Yours sincerely

Peter Vardos
First Assistant Secretary
Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs Division

13 June 2002

