

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 22 May 2017

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

**(BE17/269) - Citizenship changes – impact on ceremonies - Programme 2.1:
Citizenship**

Senator Carr, Kim (L&CA) written:

Will there be any impact on citizenship ceremonies?
Has the number of ceremonies increased or decreased?

Answer:

Any applicant over 16 years of age for citizenship by descent, adoption and resumption will need to make the Pledge before they can become a citizen. Applicants for citizenship by conferral on the grounds of being born in Papua, born to a former citizen or under statelessness provisions, will no longer be exempt from making the Pledge.

The Department has been receiving a sustained increase in the number of applications for Australian citizenship. From 2010-11 to 2015-16 the number of applications for citizenship by conferral lodged by primary and secondary applicants has increased by 127 per cent.

The Department continues to work closely with local government councils and other ceremony hosts to meet demand, which remains constant.