

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND**  
**INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO**  
**2011-12 Budget Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number:** Whole

**Question No:** 358

**Topic:** Freedom of Information

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Boyce asked:**

1. Has the Department/agency received any advice on how to respond to FOI requests?
2. How many FOI requests has the Department received?
3. How many have been granted or denied?
4. How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests?

**Answer:**

1. No. As at 30 June 2011, the Department is not aware of having received any advice over the last year in relation to how to respond to specific FOI requests. However, general advice has been received from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C), which we understand was provided to all Departments, about consultation in relation to Cabinet documents.

2. For 2009-10, information about FOI requests that the Department received up to 30 June 2010 is included in the FOI statistics provided for the FOI annual report required under the former section 93 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act).

The Department has received 68 FOI requests between 1 July 2010 and 30 June 2011.

3. Of the 74 requests (including 68 new FOI requests and 6 FOI requests on hand from the 2009-10 financial year) under consideration since 1 July 2010:

- 41 decisions have been made;
  - 10 granted in full
  - 24 granted in part
  - 7 denied
- 16 have been withdrawn; and
- 17 on hand as at 30 June 2011.

4. Please note that conclusive certificates have been abolished by the *Freedom of Information (Removal of Conclusive Certificates and Other Measures) Act 2009* with effect on and from 7 October 2009. Accordingly, no conclusive certificates have been issued during the past year in relation to FOI requests.