

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Additional Estimates, 15 February 2006

**Question: AT 7**

**Topic:** *Citizenships and appointments to boards*

**Hansard Page:** **E36**

**Senator MURRAY asked:**

But it is not part of your conflict of interest declaration that you are a dual citizen or not a citizen.

Mr Coombs—No.

Senator SHERRY—There is that issue and the direct legal issue of whether a noncitizen can be appointed to the RBA or, for that matter, other boards, but it is not an issue here.

Dr Parkinson—I am racking my brains on this, but I do not recall the act saying anything about citizenship, but we can check that if you wish.

Senator SHERRY—I do not know, but there may be a constitutional issue as well. However, you are not asking about it. What is the length of time for this process?

Dr Parkinson—It can vary dramatically. If it is a simple reappointment, it can be dealt with very quickly. If it is a new appointment, it will depend on how long it takes us to find the relevant information about the people that we might be putting forward for the Treasurer's consideration and then for iterations with the Treasurer as to whether any of those individuals are the ones that he wishes to appoint or whether he wishes us to undertake more checking.

**Answer:**

Neither the *Reserve Bank Act 1959* nor *The Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* contain provisions specifying the nationality or citizenship of Reserve Bank of Australia Board members.