

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES 2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Australian Public Service Commission

Outcome/Program: 1/1.1.1

Topic: Measurement of Cultural Diversity in the APS

Senator: Di Natale

Question reference number: 39

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Tuesday, 2 April 2013

Number of pages: 1

Question:

What steps is the Australian Public Service Commission taking to measure the number of culturally and linguistically diverse Commonwealth employees?

Answer:

The Australian Public Service Commission (APSC) collects information from Australian Public Service employees (however, not other Commonwealth employees) about their country of birth, first language spoken, main non-English language, mothers first language, fathers first language, year of arrival (if a person arrived from overseas), Indigenous status, and whether they have a non-English speaking background (NESB). This information is captured in the Australian Public Service Employee Database (APSED), and is reported in the Statistical Bulletin, published with the Commission's State of the Service Report.

The APSC also asks similar questions in the APS Census. Responses to this confidential questionnaire typically show higher rates of representation than appear in APSED.