

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 12 February 2007

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(112) Output 2.3: Australian Citizenship

Senator Hurley (L&CA 100) asked:

When Mr Julian Fenech applied for his work visa to come here from Malta, did he know he was not an Australian citizen then?

Answer:

Mr Fenech applied for a Working Holiday Visa on-line which was processed by DIAC Hobart under the e-visa program. In that application he indicated that his nationality was Maltese, and that he was born in Australia. At the time Mr Fenech lodged his application in February 2005 there was no question on the form requiring applicants to declare if they held any other nationalities.

The Australian High Commission in Malta has indicated that they have no record or recollection of Mr Fenech approaching them to make enquiries prior to applying for the visa or at any other time.

It is therefore not possible to indicate if Mr Fenech knew he was not an Australian citizen when he applied for his visa.