

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 9 FEBRUARY 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(83) Program : Internal Product

Senator Barnett 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) All FOI requests by DIAC are processed in accordance with the FOI Act, noting Senator Faulkner's 30 April 2009 letter to departmental secretaries and agency heads seeking to enhance a culture of disclosure.
- (2) From 1 July to 31 December 2009 the Department of Immigration and Citizenship received 5 765 requests (3 360 for access and 2 405 for amendments).
- (3) Of the 5 759 requests (3 300 access and 2 459 amendment) finalised by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship between 1 July and 31 December 2009, 3 448 (59.9%) were granted in full, 1 434 (24.9%) were granted in part, 637 (11.1%) were refused in full, and 240 (4.2%) were otherwise finalised (invalid, withdrawn, transferred)
- (4) Based on current records, the Department of Immigration and Citizenship has not issued any conclusive certificates under sections 33, 33A and 36 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.