

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE12/0076) Program: Internal Product

Senator Humphries asked:

(1) How many FOI requests did the Department receive for the financial year 2009-10 and 2010-11?

(2) For each financial year, how many requests were denied and how many were granted?

(3) Did the department fail to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act for any requests?

(4) If so, how many? Do any of these requests remain outstanding?

Answer:

As per the figures in the 2009-10 *Freedom of Information Act 1982* Annual Report published by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and the 2010-11 FOI Annual Report Published by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner:

(1) (a) For the 2009-10 financial year the Department received 11 504 FOI requests (a total of 6 921 were requests for access and 4 583 were requests for amendments).

(b) For the 2010-11 financial year the Department received 11 724 FOI requests (a total of 8 057 were requests for access and 3 667 were requests for amendments).

(2) (a) Of the 11 273 requests finalised by the Department for the 2009-10 financial year, (6 620 access and 4 653 amendments):

Access

- 3 485 (52.6%) were granted in full
- 2 598 (39.3%) were granted in part
- 537 (8.1%) were refused in full

Amendments:

- 3 679 (79.1%) requests were altered
- 326 (7.0%) records were annotated
- 648 (13.9%) were refused or withdrawn

(b) Of the 11 177 requests finalised by the Department for the 2010-11 financial year, (7 511 access and 3 666 amendments):

Access

- 4 152 (55.3%) were granted in full
- 2 688 (35.8%) were granted in part
- 671 (8.9%) were refused in full

Amendments:

- 2 361 (64.4%) requests were altered
- 480 (13.1%) records were annotated
- 825 (22.5%) were refused or withdrawn

(All figures are rounded to one decimal place and may not equal 100.0%)

- (3) The department failed to meet the processing time outlined in the FOI Act for a number of the requests.
- (4) For requests due in 2009-10 (from 31 August 2009 to 30 June 2010 which is the period for which data is available), the department finalised 77.6% of requests due within 30 days; four requests from 2009-10 remain outstanding.

For requests due in 2010-11, the department completed 88.2% of requests due within 30 days; 63 requests remain outstanding.

Please note that the department measures compliance with its 30 days' service standard and a number of requests not meeting this service standard were still completed within the processing times outlined in the FOI Act.