

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE12/00077) Program : Internal Product

Senator Humphries asked:

- (1) How many FOI requests has the Department received for this financial year to date?
- (2) How many requests have been denied and how many have been 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:

DIAC has provided figures to 31 December 2011 to match the reporting periods for the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner's *Freedom of Information Act 1982* Annual Report. Additional information on DIAC's FOI Act performance is available on a quarterly basis.

- (1) For the 2011-12 financial year to 31 December 2011, the Department has received 8 071 FOI requests (a total of 5 674 were requests for access and 2 397 were requests for amendments).
- (2) (a) Of the 8 034 requests finalised by the Department for the 2011-12 financial year to 23 February 2012, (5 697 access and 2 337 amendments):

Access

- 3 221 (56.5%) were granted in full;
- 1 789 (31.5%) were granted in part;
- 542 (9.5%) were refused in full; and
- 145 (2.5%) were otherwise finalised (withdrawn or transferred).

Amendments:

- 1 258 (53.8%) requests were altered;
- 464 (19.9%) records were annotated; and
- 615 (26.3%) were refused or withdrawn.

- (3) The department has not met the processing time outlined in the FOI Act for all requests.

- (4) For requests due in 2011-12 to 23 February 2012, the department has finalised 85.2% of requests within 30 days. Of the requests due in 2011-12, 276 requests older than 30 days remain outstanding at COB 23 February 2012.

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