

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 22 May 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(21) Output 1.1: Non-Humanitarian Entry and Stay

Senator Carr (L&C 7) asked:

Did Mr McBurney's complaint get lost? Is that what happened?

Answer:

Our records indicate that Mr McBurney contacted the Department's Victorian office on 5 July 2005 to enquire whether the Department had disclosed information concerning his entry into Australia to the United States government and, if so, to seek an explanation of the basis for this disclosure.

A Departmental officer investigated the complaint by interrogating Departmental systems and by contacting various people in the Department to seek information.

That officer remembers contacting Mr McBurney on or around 9 August 2005 to provide him with an update concerning her investigation. Her recollection of that conversation is that she advised Mr McBurney that she was waiting to receive further information required to address his complaint. The officer recalls Mr McBurney advising her that his course of action would be to complain to the Ombudsman and the Office of the Privacy Commissioner.

Our records indicate that Mr McBurney did not contact the Department again concerning this matter until 11 April 2006 when he wrote to the Minister requesting that the Department provide a response to his complaint.