

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 29 MAY 2008**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

### **(83) Output 2.3: Australian Citizenship**

Senator Ellison (L&CA 57) asked:

- (1) Have any people returned applications without signing the values statement?
- (2) Has anyone refused to sign the values statement?

*Answer:*

(1) The values statement is incorporated into relevant visa application forms and would therefore generally be signed by applicants prior to them lodging their application or, where applicable, at an interview. However, the requirement to sign the values statement is a time of decision requirement and does not go to the validity of an application. Where an applicant has, inadvertently or otherwise, failed to sign the values statement, they are given an opportunity to do so before a decision is made on their visa application. The Department has not recorded any instances where an application has been refused because the values statement has not been signed.

(2) The Department has not recorded any instances of an applicant refusing to sign the values statement where it is a requirement for the grant of a visa.