

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 24 MAY 2011**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

**(BE11/0772) Program 6.1: Multicultural and Citizenship Services**

Senator Cash (written) asked:

The report on Settlement Outcomes of New Arrivals shows that 11% of persons able to take up citizenship refuse to do so. How will cutting funding to the Valuing Australian Citizenship program impact on this rate?

*Answer:*

The report on Settlement Outcomes of New Arrivals does not show that 11 per cent of persons able to take up citizenship refuse to do so. The report shows that 96.1 per cent of respondents are already Australian citizens or are intending to become Australian citizens in the future.

On behalf of the Department of Immigration and Citizenship, Australian Survey Research conducted a study on the settlement outcomes of new arrivals in Australia. Just over 20 000 Humanitarian, Family and Skilled migrants were invited to participate in the study. The invited sample comprised 60 percent Humanitarian entrants, 20 percent Family migrants and 20 percent Skilled migrants. More than 8500 people, who have lived in Australia for between 1 and 5 years, responded to the survey.

Of the 8576 people who responded to the question about Australian citizenship, 341 indicated they would not become an Australian citizen. This represents 3.9 per cent.

The decision to become an Australian citizen is a personal one, with many factors influencing that decision. The report indicated the main reason the respondents did not have an intention to become an Australian citizen was because their country of origin did not allow dual citizenship. The report found other reasons listed could not be considered statistically representative and should not be used for any policy or program changes.

The current funding is appropriate at this time.