

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21-22 MAY 2012

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

#### **(BE12/0105) Program: Internal Product**

Senator Humphries asked:

Portfolio wide: Freedom of Information - How many FOI requests has the department received for this financial year to date? How many requests have been denied and how many have been granted? Has the department failed to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act for any requests? If so, how many and why? Do any of these requests remain outstanding? If so, how many and why?

*Answer:*

For the 2011-12 financial year to 31 March 2012 the department has received 9 322 FOI requests.

The 9 293 FOI requests finalised by the department for the 2011-12 financial year to 31 March 2012 have been actioned as follows:

Requests for access to documents:

- 3 775 (56.8%) were granted in full;
- 2 080 (31.3%) were granted in part;
- 621 (9.4%) were refused in full; and
- 165 (2.5%) were otherwise finalised (withdrawn or transferred).

Requests for amendment to personal information:

- 1 449 (54.6%) records were altered;
- 502 (18.9%) records were annotated; and
- 701 (26.4%) were refused or withdrawn.

For requests due in 2011-12 to 31 March 2012, the department finalised 8 079 (84.9%) of requests within 30 days.

The department finalises requests outside of the 30 day time period that still meet the statutory requirements of the FOI Act. Finalisation outside the 30 day time period is as a result of the size and/or complexity of these requests.

The department had 366 requests older than 30 days that remained outstanding as at 31 March 2012. This is as a result of the size and/or complexity of these requests. This includes 48 requests due prior to the 2011-12 financial year.