

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

2005-06 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 1 November 2005

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(229) Output: 2.3 Australian Citizenship

Senator Hurley asked:

How successful has been the e-lodgement method set up by your department.

- (a) how much does it cost to operate the e-lodgement system
- (b) how much income do you receive from e-lodgement citizenship applications 2003-2004
- (c) how is e-lodgement going to work with the new terror laws?

Answer:

Since the introduction of the e-lodgement facility, the numbers of citizenship applications received as follows:

Period	Number of e-lodged applications	% of e-lodged applications compared with total no. of applications
2003-04	14,123	16.8 %
2004-05	19,334	22.0 %
July to Oct 2005	8,929	26.1 %

- (a) The estimated cost of operating the citizenship e-lodgement facility is \$175,000 per annum. The estimated cost is based on the apportionment of total costs derived from operational support, infrastructure and development costs for the department's e-business related systems, of which e-citizenship is a component.
- (b) In 2003-04, the department received \$1,704,240 in revenue from electronically lodged applications. Applications may include children under the age of 16, each of whom are regarded as applicants. Therefore, the number of applications is usually less than the number of applicants.
- (c) E-lodgement will not be affected by the introduction of security checking as this will be undertaken post-lodgement.