

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 17 OCTOBER 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE11/0070) Program : Internal Product

Senator Humphries asked:

Has the Department/agency received any advice on how to respond to FOI requests?

Answer:

All FOI requests received by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) are processed in accordance with the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act), with reference to the *FOI Guidelines* issued by Office of the Australian Information Commissioner under section 93A of the FOI Act. The Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet has issued FOI Guidance Notes that are intended to assist agencies when considering the application of the Cabinet and deliberative documents exemptions under the FOI Act when dealing with FOI requests. The notes were developed in consultation with the Australian Information Commissioner, the Freedom of Information Commissioner and the Australian Government Solicitor. They should be read in conjunction with the Australian Information Commissioner's Guidelines.