

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 15 October 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE12/0392) PROGRAM – 3.1: Border Management

Senator Cash (written) asked:

Biometrics: Does the DIAC Biometric solution currently capture facial and fingerprint biometrics for all enrolled applicants? If yes, how is the system integrity and personal privacy of the individual biometric data managed and maintained? If no, does the system need to capture the facial and fingerprint biometric data of each applicant in future on the DIAC Biometric system?

Answer:

DIAC enrolls both facial and fingerprint biometrics for people 15 years and over from selected caseloads. For minors 14 years and under and Citizenship applicants, only facial biometrics are enrolled.

The security controls implemented for the DIAC biometric system comply with those required for government systems containing unclassified but sensitive information not intended for public release as outlined in the Australian Government Information Security Manual.

Access and disclosure of all personal information, including biometric data of an individual, must comply with the provisions of the *Privacy Act 1988*. In addition, Part 4A of the *Migration Act 1958* provides specific requirements that govern access, disclosure, modification and destruction of identifying information (as defined in s336A) that has been collected and is held by the department. These provisions include criminal penalties in relation to the disclosure of identifying information where it is not a 'permitted disclosure'. All staff with access to DIAC systems are required to complete Security Essentials training which covers appropriate handling of information. This training is re-validated every 2 years.