

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 November 2013

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE13/0072) PROGRAMME – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Singh (L&CA 127-128) asked:

Senator SINGH: So we currently do have a test in place for becoming an Australian citizen? [...]

Mr Fleming: You have to demonstrate your knowledge as part of the course. I do not think it is quite 100 per cent, but there is a reasonably high pass rate of around 90 per cent for people who do the course.

Senator SINGH: High distinction?

Mr Fleming: That is the percentage of people who undertake the course who are assessed as passing, not that they have to score a high distinction.

Senator SINGH: They don't? Right. What do they have to score?

Mr Fleming: I am not sure. I will take on notice precisely how it is assessed. But it is not the same as sitting a test. It is through the course. It is a bit like e-learning. If you have ever done any e-learning, you will know that there are various ways of demonstrating that you have understood what has been taught.

Answer:

In order to successfully complete the course, clients are required to attend all seven sessions (20 hours) and participate in basic English in classroom activities and discussions. During the sessions, clients must complete nine assessment tasks and achieve at least 75 per cent in each task. This is the same pass mark as the computer-based test.