

From: [Tom Ravlic](#)
To: [Committee, Privileges \(SEN\)](#)
Subject: SUBMISSION TO THE PRIVILEGES INQUIRY INTO DPS
Date: Monday, 26 January 2026 8:10:43 PM

Good evening,

I wish apologise at the outset to the secretariat and to the chair, Senator Jane Hume, for my tardiness in not meeting the deadline set before Christmas for this inquiry.

Committee members may be aware of material I have written for the Mandarin related to cultural issues in parliament house, but I do want to draw the committee's attention to the following pieces:

1. Why is DPS asking staff about citizenship: status? <https://www.themandarin.com.au/296172-why-is-dps-asking-about-staff-citizenship-status/>
2. Citizenship quiz just 'routine': <https://www.themandarin.com.au/296960-citizenship-quiz-just-routine-dps-says>

There are several questions that still concern me about the circumstances I wrote about in this story.

The first that has never quite properly been explained is why citizenship issues were not cleared up earlier with existing employees, for example, when laws changed some time ago.

A second question about which I became aware of from multiple sources was that there were differing versions of communication about this issue across DPS itself depending on the communication style of management, and there was a difference between the way e-mails were being classified between departments.

It seemed odd to me at the time of writing, and it remains odd to me to this day, that the department would not have already had detailed citizenship details of its staff especially since matters of citizenship were the subject of great debate when the Section 44 issues blew up some years ago.

That debate should have been an opportunity for DPS to clean house and ensure its staff records were in order.

I would also have expected it to have been routine for people to already have provided this disclosure of citizenship on commencement of their employment or for the department to have checked with people when citizenship rules changed.

It would seem most unusual - at least to me given my previous experience governance and technical advisory roles at not for profits - to have to check citizenship details of staff many years after the law had actually been changed to permit dual citizenship.

Please let me know if the committee has trouble accessing the stories as I am happy to provide them in PDF format.

Kind Regards

Tom Ravlic