

Question on notice no. 161

Portfolio question number: BE18/077

2018-19 Budget estimates

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, Home Affairs Portfolio

Senator Nick McKim: asked the Department of Home Affairs on 22 May 2018—

Senator McKIM: How many staff in the department are allocated to processing applications for citizenship?

Mr Mansfield: I'll have to take that on notice, because it changes all the time. Between 1 July 2015 and 31 March 2018, it has grown by 16 per cent, but I don't have to hand the figure.

Senator McKIM: Okay. So that's a 16 per cent growth-

Mr Mansfield: Staffing.

Senator McKIM: in effect, in the capacity of the department to assess citizenship applications?

Mr Mansfield: That's correct.

Senator McKIM: Thank you. If you can break that down in any way-perhaps chronologically, whether it's by financial year or any other breakdown that you're able to give - if you could provide that on notice.

Mr Mansfield: Yes, we can do that.

Answer —

Between 1 July 2015 and 31 March 2018, the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff working in the Citizenship Program area, including support staff, increased by 16 per cent from 257.47 FTE to 299.68 FTE.

In 2015-16, an average of 257.47 FTE staff were working in the Citizenship Program area.

In 2016-17, an average of 296.78 FTE staff were working in the Citizenship Program area.

In 2017-18 (to 31 March 2018), an average of 297.10 FTE staff were working in the Citizenship Program area.