

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2012-13 Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 429

Topic: Freedom of Information

Hansard Page: Written

Senator McKenzie asked:

Has the Department failed to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act for any requests? If so, how many and why? Do any of these requests remain outstanding? If so, how many and why?

Answer:

The Department failed to meet the processing times specified in the FOI Act for two FOI requests that were received in the current financial year.

Factors contributing to the lateness of one of the decisions included time lost through the initial misdirection of correspondence from the transferring agency, significant delays in obtaining input from the transferring agency, and difficulties in discussing the request with the applicant.

Factors contributing to the lateness of the other matter included delays arising from the transfer of the request from another agency, the size and the complexity of the request, and difficulties in communicating with the applicant.

Both of these matters have been completed and are no longer outstanding.