

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 24 March 2017**

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

**(AE17/292) - Visa streamlining - Programme 2.3: Visas**

Senator Pratt, Louise (L&CA) written:

What process does a permanent resident go through before becoming a citizen and how long does that process take?

Has the Department undertaken any analysis from data sources regarding citizenship eligibility and its extension from two years to four years residency?

Did you conduct analysis on how those changes affected individuals seeking to become Australian citizens?

*Answer:*

Q1. To apply for citizenship by conferral, permanent residents must meet the residence requirements, be of good character and intend to live in or maintain a close and continuing association with, Australia.

The time it takes to apply for and be approved for Australian citizenship varies. Currently 90 per cent of applications for citizenship by conferral are processed within 12 months.

On 20 April 2017, the Australian Government announced a package of reforms to strengthen the requirements for Australian citizenship including increasing the general residence requirement, which means an applicant for Australian citizenship will need to demonstrate a minimum of four years' permanent residence immediately prior to their application for citizenship.

Q2. The Department provides analysis of key policy initiatives as part of advice to Government. The Department does not release advice to Ministers.

Q3. See answer to Q2.