

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 22 May 2017

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE17/274) - Cause of citizenship changes - Programme 2.1: Citizenship

Senator Carr, Kim (L&CA) written:

How did the citizenship changes come about? Was the idea from the department? The report from the Hon Phillip Ruddock and Senator Fierravanti-Wells was finalised some time ago. What work happened between then and now? What was the catalyst for announcing the changes? Where did each of the 6 main ideas come from?

Answer:

The National Consultation on Citizenship was commissioned on 26 May 2015.

On 2 May 2016, the Final Report of the National Consultation on Citizenship *Australian Citizenship – Your Right, Your Responsibility* (the Report) was presented to the Prime Minister and the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection. The Report indicated strong support for strengthening the requirements for Australian citizenship and made key findings and recommendations in relation to promoting community understanding of Australian citizenship, and strengthening the pathway to citizenship. This period included the caretaker arrangements for the last Federal Election.

The package of reforms announced by the Prime Minister and the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection on 20 April 2017 is the Government's response to the Report.