

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 22 May 2017

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

**(BE17/280) - Citizenship changes – Legislation backdating - Programme 2.1:
Citizenship**

Senator Carr, Kim (L&CA) written:

Why was the legislation backdated?

Was legal advice sought on backdating legislation?

o If so by whom and when?

o What did it say?

Answer:

The Australian Citizenship Legislation Amendment (Strengthening the Requirements for Australian Citizenship and Other Measures) Bill 2017 provides for commencement of citizenship measures announced by the Government on 20 April 2017 to that date.

This addresses issues with a spike in applications that may arise when new requirements are announced.

Legal advice was sought from the Australian Government Solicitor (AGS). That advice is subject to legal professional privilege.