

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 22 May 2017

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

**(BE17/285) - Citizenship changes – origin of language testing concept -
Programme 2.1: Citizenship**

Senator Carr, Kim (L&CA) written:

Where did the concept of more English testing come from? Where did the specific level requirement come from?

Has the department produced or sought advice on what level of English is required that improves integration? Social cohesion?

Answer:

A strong theme of the 2015 *National Consultation on Citizenship Australian Citizenship – Your Right, Your Responsibility* was the importance of English language to being a citizen and full integration into Australian society.

The Government has decided to introduce a requirement for citizenship applicants to have competent English language through listening, speaking, reading and writing skills.

The 2016 Productivity Commission Inquiry Report of Migrant Intake into Australia highlighted the importance of English language proficiency for integration and settlement outcomes.