

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 19 October 2015

#### IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

#### (SE15/105) - Citizenship Applications - Delays - Programme 2.1: Citizenship

Senator Carr, Kim (L&CA) written:

- Why have people who came by boat been experiencing significant delays in their citizenship application?
- Why are those people who have passed their citizenship test and received an approval letter by the Minister now experiencing significant delays in waiting to attend a ceremony?
- Why have people who have applied for citizenship not received any information from the Department regarding the delays in their applications?
- How many people have had their permanent refugee visas cancelled after applying for citizenship?
- Has the Minister received any applications for citizenship by stateless children born in Australia, and has the Minister decided on any of these cases? How long has the Minister had these applications before him?

*Answer:*

1. All applicants for Australian citizenship for conferral must meet the legislative requirements, regardless of how and when they arrived in Australia.
2. The process of becoming an Australian citizen by conferral is only completed once an applicant makes the pledge of commitment at a ceremony. All applicants, including those who have received an approval letter relating to their application for Australian citizenship, are subject to further assessment should relevant information become available. In these circumstances, an applicant will not be allocated to a citizenship ceremony or, if they have, they may be advised that they cannot attend until the issue is resolved.
3. The Department communicates directly with applicants or their authorised representative when further information or assessments are required for their citizenship application.
4. During the period 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, eighteen people who had previously applied for citizenship had their refugee or humanitarian visas cancelled.
5. Yes. In 2014–15, 22 applications were lodged under the Statelessness provisions at sub section 21(8) of the *Australian Citizenship Act 2007*. In 2013–14, five applications were lodged under the same provision. These applications are currently being processed.