

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2012-13 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 308

Topic: Freedom of Information

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

1. What is the total cost to the department/agency to process FOI requests for 2011-12?
2. How many FOI requests did the department/agency receive in 2011-12? How many requests were denied and how many were granted?
3. Did the department fail to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act for any requests? If so, how many? Do any of these requests remain outstanding?

Answer:

1. The total cost to the Department of processing FOI requests for 2011-12 was \$550,384. This figure is calculated by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner, based on reports submitted by the Department.

2. The Department received 72 new FOI requests from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012. In addition, 17 requests were carried over from 2010-11. The total number of requests processed in the Department in 2011-12 was 89.

Of these 89 requests:

- 80 were finalised, of which:
 - 37 were granted (9 in full; 28 in part);
 - 6 were denied; and
 - 37 were either withdrawn or transferred to another agency.

The remaining nine requests were carried over into 2012-13 and were finalised within the processing times outlined in the FOI Act.

3. The Department failed to meet the processing times specified in the FOI Act for two FOI requests that were received by the Department in 2011-12, as well as for two of the requests carried over from 2010-11. All of these requests have been finalised and are no longer outstanding.