

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 24 FEBRUARY 2009

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(45) Output 2.3: Australian Citizenship

Senator Abetz asked:

Why did it take the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship 2 months from the release of the Australian Citizenship Review Committee's report, *Moving forward... Improving Pathways to Citizenship* to the sending of correspondence to members and senators announcing the release?

Answer:

On 22 November 2008 the Minister released the independent Citizenship Test Review report *Moving Forward... Improving Pathways to Citizenship* and the Government's response to the report.

The Review Committee's report and the Government's response were available electronically to all members of the public on the same day. The Minister also issued a media release advising the public that the report had been released and provided a link to the Citizenship Test Review website. On 24 November 2008 the Minister tabled a statement in Parliament 2008 regarding the citizenship test review report and the Government's decisions.

Arrangements were subsequently made to print the report and the Government's response. The printed versions of the documents were available mid January 2009 and were mailed to all Members of Parliament, Senators and those organisations and members of the public who provided written submissions or attended consultations held by the Review Committee.