

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21-22 May 2007**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

### **(150) Output 2.3: Australian Citizenship**

Senator Hurley asked:

Who is the Department's working party for citizenship and the citizenship test and what is their role?

*Answer:*

The head of the Citizenship Test and Values Statements Taskforce, First Assistant Secretary, Mr Peter Vardos, chairs a weekly project steering committee meeting. The steering committee comprises representatives from a large number of stakeholder areas across the Department as well as representatives from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, The Department of Human Services, Centrelink and Medicare.

The areas of the Department represented on the steering committee include:

- Citizenship, Settlement and Multicultural Affairs
- Refugee, Humanitarian and International
- Migration and Temporary Entry
- National Communications
- Strategic Policy
- Legal
- Systems Delivery
- Financial Strategy and Reporting
- Client Services
- People Services, Values and Training
- IT Services and Security
- State and Territory Offices.

The role of the steering committee is to:

- Provide advice and guidance on the direction and outcomes of the project
- Represent business, user and client interests
- Review and endorse any changes to the project's scope, resources or schedule
- Review project progress – in terms of status, resources and delivery of outputs
- Escalate issues/risks as appropriate.