

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21-22 May 2007

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(161) Output 1.1: Migration and Temporary Entry

Senator Carr asked:

1. Did the Department know that Mr. McBurney's diplomatic visa and status expired in October 2004?
2. From whom or where did you get this information?
3. Why didn't you take the appropriate steps to cancel that visa out of your database?

Answer:

1. Yes. However, departmental records do not show the date on which the department received the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's (DFAT) notice dated 15 October 2004 that Mr McBurney's diplomatic posting had concluded in October 2004.
2. DFAT.
3. Mr McBurney contacted the department on 10 January 2005 advising that he believed he was admitted to Australia in December 2004 on a diplomatic visa in error. As a result of this contact, Mr McBurney's diplomatic visa was ceased in the TRIPS database on 28 January 2005. Given the steps taken by the department to resolve Mr McBurney's legitimate concern, the time taken was appropriate and in line with relevant internal standards.