

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 24 MAY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE11/0771) Program 6.1: Multicultural and Citizenship Services

Senator Cash (written) asked:

Table 2.3.6 of DIAC PBS 2011/2012 shows a decrease in departmental expenses in service delivery and policy design in promoting the value of Australian citizenship. Has the Department undertaken an analysis of what impact this will have on the value being placed on new entrants becoming Australian citizens? If yes, what was the impact, if not, why not?

Answer:

Decreases in departmental expenses were made as part of broader government initiatives to achieve efficiencies without compromising service delivery. Therefore we expect minimal or no impact on new entrants becoming Australian citizens.

On behalf of the Department, Australian Survey Research recently conducted a study on the settlement outcomes of new arrivals in Australia. More than 8500 people, who have lived in Australia for between 1 and 5 years, participated in the study.

This study indicated that 96.1 per cent of respondents were already Australian citizens or were intending on becoming Australian citizens in the future.

The Department is committed to promoting the value of Australian citizenship and currently undertakes a range of communication and public relations activities to achieve this goal.