

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
AUSTRALIAN SECURITY INTELLIGENCE ORGANISATION

Question No. 101

Senator Stott Despoja tabled the following question on 31 October 2005:

- a) Mr Scott Parkin's visa was apparently cancelled because ASIO allegedly gave him an "adverse security assessment." Could such an assessment, whether by ASIO or some other policing agency, be made against Australian Citizens?
- b) If yes, what proceedings would be taken against an Australian given an "adverse security assessment," or equivalent?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

- (a) A security assessment can be issued in relation to an Australian citizen, but not in the same circumstances that applied to Mr Parkin. Australian citizens do not require visas to remain in Australia.
- (b) A security assessment can be issued in relation to an Australian citizen in other circumstances. These circumstances are set out in Part 4 of the *ASIO Act 1979*.

Where an adverse or qualified security assessment is issued in respect of an Australian citizen or Australian permanent resident, that person has a right of merits review of the assessment by the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.