

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 15 October 2012

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

#### **(SE12/0698C) PROGRAM – 6.1: Multicultural and Citizenship Services**

Senator Cash (written) asked:

How many were refused? What were the reasons for refusal?

*Answer:*

Due to changes in the way applications for evidence of Australian citizenship are recorded on departmental systems, data on the number of instances where evidence was not given is only available from 1 November 2010. Prior to this date, the department only recorded the instances of evidence given.

The number of instances where evidence was not given from 1 November 2010 to 30 June 2012 is:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Evidence applications refused</b>
1 Nov 2010 – 30 June 2011	338
1 July 2011 – 30 June 2012	1226

Reporting on the reasons for not giving evidence is limited by system constraints and for most applications is not recorded in reportable fields. However, summary data for the above period shows that approximately 30 per cent of instances where evidence was not given were due to identity issues. Seven per cent of instances where evidence was not given were due to the information provided by the applicant and held by the department being insufficient to support a finding of fact that the applicant was indeed an Australian citizen.