

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 November 2013

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE13/0073) PROGRAMME – Internal Product

Senator Singh (L&CA 128) asked:

Senator SINGH: Thank you. How many people have dual citizenship with Australia and another country?

Mr Fleming: I will take that on notice but I am not sure we can give a definitive answer to that question because it depends on the intricacies. So we will not necessarily know if somebody to whom we grant Australian citizenship as a result of that has lost the citizenship from their country of origin because we do not necessarily know that. So it is not something we can say with any great precision.

Answer:

The Government does not keep statistics on dual citizens as the development of accurate data would require the collection and disclosure of personal information contrary to the requirements of the *Privacy Act 1988*, in particular Information Privacy Principle 10 *Limits on use of personal information* and Information Privacy Principle 11 *Limits on disclosure of personal information*. In addition, the citizenship laws of migrant source countries may change over time and may or may not permit dual or multiple citizenships for different cohorts of citizens, making accurate estimations difficult.