

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO  
DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Select Committee COVID-19

**QoN Number:** CV19-407

**Subject: Visa Processing**

**Asked by:** Kristina Keneally

**Question:**

How has visa processing changed since the advent of COVID-19? To help illustrate this, please

provide the following monthly data from July 2019 to August 2020:

- a. The number of people who are waiting for their partner visa to be processed.
- b. The current average wait time for a partner visa application to be processed.
- c. The number of children who are waiting for their child visa to be processed.
- d. The current average wait time for a child visa application to be processed.
- e. If this exact data is not available, please provide nearest comparable data

**Answer:**

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Home Affairs has continued to process visa applications. The current focus in the family program is on finalising applications for those who are onshore, and immediate family members of Australian citizens and permanent residents offshore who meet all the requirements for the grant of a visa and have an urgent need to travel.

Due to COVID-19, there have been ongoing disruptions to biometric collection, English language testing centres, paper application lodgement centres and panel doctor facilities. These services have consequently impacted caseload processing. While these services have been unavailable, or impacted, applicants have been given additional time to complete checks and provide the requested information.

Unavailability of key assessment services and the consequential inability of applicants to meet visa criteria has resulted in increasing processing times and applications on hand.

**a. and b.**

The Department publishes global processing times on the Department's website. <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-processing-times/overview>. Processing times indicate how long it is taking to finalise 75 and 90 per cent of applications submitted globally.

**First stage partner\* visa applications on hand and processing times – July 2019 to August 2020**

Month ending	On hand	75% of visas processed	90% of visas processed
31/07/2019	88169	18 Months	26 Months
31/08/2019	88081	18 Months	26 Months
30/09/2019	87432	18 Months	25 Months
31/10/2019	87798	19 Months	26 Months
30/11/2019	88315	19 Months	26 Months
31/12/2019	89467	19 Months	25 Months
31/01/2020	89510	20 Months	27 Months
29/02/2020	89779	22 Months	27 Months
31/03/2020	91717	20 Months	27 Months
30/04/2020	93707	20 Months	26 Months
31/05/2020	94798	19 Months	24 Months
30/06/2020	96359	19 Months	24 Months
31/07/2020	96444	19 Months	25 Months
31/08/2020	97471	22 Months	27 Months

- \* Includes the offshore Partner (subclass 309) visa, the onshore Partner (subclass 820) visa, and the Prospective Marriage (subclass 300) visa.
- The onhand figures provided are as at the last day of the specified month.
  - The processing times provided are for all applications decided (granted or refused) during the specified month.

## Second Stage Partner\* visa applications on hand and processing times – July 2019 to August 2020

Month ending	On hand	75% of visas processed	90% of visas processed
31/07/2019	158,429	19 Months	26 Months
31/08/2019	156,465	17 Months	24 Months
30/09/2019	151,003	21 Months	29 Months
31/10/2019	148,048	18 Months	26 Months
30/11/2019	146,035	18 Months	25 Months
31/12/2019	145,452	14 Months	23 Months
31/01/2020	143,388	13 Months	22 Months
29/02/2020	141,428	11 Months	22 Months
31/03/2020	141,753	14 Months	28 Months
30/04/2020	140,687	11 Months	24 Months
31/05/2020	139,348	10 Months	20 Months
30/06/2020	138,391	9 Months	19 Months
31/07/2020	136,910	18 Months	25 Months
31/08/2020	133,934	15 Months	23 Months

### Notes:

- \* Second stage Partner comprises the Partner (Migrant) (subclass 100) visa and the Partner (Permanent) (subclass 801) visa.
- Second stage Partner visa applications generally become eligible for assessment two years after lodgement of the combined first/second stage application. The second stage processing times provided in this table are calculated from the date of eligibility for assessment.
- Onhand figures include onhand applications which are not yet eligible for assessment.
- The onhand figures provided are as at the last day of the specified month.
- The processing times provided are for all applications decided (granted or refused) during the specified month.

c. and d.

**Child\* visa applications on hand and processing times – July 2019 to August 2020**

<b>Month ending</b>	<b>On hand</b>	<b>75% of visas processed</b>	<b>90% of visas processed</b>
31/07/2019	3,233	12 Months	17 Months
31/08/2019	3,309	13 Months	18 Months
30/09/2019	3,392	12 Months	15 Months
31/10/2019	3,457	12 Months	18 Months
30/11/2019	3,459	12 Months	15 Months
31/12/2019	3,384	11 Months	15 Months
31/01/2020	3,330	12 Months	15 Months
29/02/2020	3,325	12 Months	17 Months
31/03/2020	3,278	12 Months	14 Months
30/04/2020	3,290	14 Months	16 Months
31/05/2020	3,515	13 Months	15 Months
30/06/2020	3,638	14 Months	18 Months
31/07/2020	3,700	13 Months	16 Months
31/08/2020	3,762	13 Months	16 Months

- \* Child visas comprise the Child (subclass 101) visa, the Adoption (subclass 102) visa, the Child (subclass 802) visa, and the Dependent Child (subclass 445) visa.
- The onhand figures provided are as at the last day of the specified month.
- The processing times provided are for all applications decided (granted or refused) during the specified month.