

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 08 February 2016

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE16/063) - Average length of time to process 457 visas - Programme 2.3: Visas

Senator Bilyk, Catryna (L&CA 96/97) asked:

Senator BILYK: While we are on visas, I might just move onto visas, if we still have the right people at the table. With regard to 457 visas, what is the current average time taken to process a 457?

Mr Pezzullo: I might defer to Mr Williams, but I might also seek assistance from Mr Wilden, if he is still in the building. Mr Wilden owns the policy and the regulation side, and processing time I think falls to Mr Williams's group.

Ms Dacey: Senators, I have just had a look, and I do not have any stats on processing times for you. I will keep looking to make sure it is not hiding somewhere else, if you want to continue with your questioning.

Senator BILYK: Okay, and perhaps you could take on notice the average in 2014-15, 2013-14, 2012-13 and 2011-12. I am sure you do not have that with you, so if you could take it on notice it would be appreciated.

Answer:

The median time taken to process a primary Temporary Work (Skilled) visa (subclass 457) application is outlined in the table below:

Programme year	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16*
Median processing time in calendar days**	16	16	36	23	30

*Programme year 2015-16 up to 31 January 2016

**Includes applications granted, refused and withdrawn

The increase in subclass 457 processing times since 2013-14 reflects the integrity reforms that have been introduced to this visa programme since July 2013. As a result of these changes, visa delegates need to consider additional regulatory criteria and may be required to request more comprehensive information from applicants before making a visa decision.